1994 International Year of the Family
Année internationale de la famille
Año Internacional de la Familia
Международный год семьи
السنة الدولية للأسرة
国际家庭年

Inventory of National Action

UNITED NATIONS
DEPARTMENT FOR POLICY COORDINATION
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
IYF SECRETARIAT

International Year of the Family

INVENTORY OF NATIONAL ACTION

United Nations Department for Policy Coordination
and Sustainable Development
Secretariat for the International Year of the Family

Vienna
March 1994

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INTRODUCTION

This document is the second edition of the Inventory of National Action for the International Year of the Family. Since the publication of the first edition, in early 1993, there has been an overwhelming increase in the scope, level and intensity of national activities for the International Year of the Family. The decision of the General Assembly to have the primary focus of action for the Year concentrated at the national and local levels gave tremendous scope for grass roots movement in support of families and opened up the possibility that the IYF would become, at the global level, a programme with highly diversified elements.

Member States have fully exploited this opportunity and have demonstrated creativity and innovation in adopting a rich array of approaches to the Year. There has similarly been an enormous variety of substantive orientations, representing the full spectrum of issues and priorities affecting families around the world. Notwithstanding the many unmet needs, also identified at the national levels, it is clear from this record that a great deal of effort is being devoted to improving the situation of families. This Inventory provides a clear testimony to the commitment of Member States to families in a pluralistic world.

At the same time, however, the record of national action for the IYF also reveals a rather astonishing range of commonalities between countries, indicating a substantial level of consensus on both issues and possible solutions. The Inventory thus confirms what has become evident throughout the entire IYF preparatory process, namely that, in spite of the manifold differences between countries, and indeed families, there is tremendous scope for understanding, action and international cooperation on major issues affecting families around the world. The importance of families to the well-being and development of individuals, communities and nations has been reaffirmed in all countries whose record appears here. This consensus on the role of families in the development process and on the need for integrated, holistic approaches to social issues underscores the relevance of this Inventory for the preparatory process to the World Summit for Social Development.

Against this backdrop of global action, the Inventory of National Action must be regarded as a limited document. In the first place, it is impossible to do justice, in a few short pages, to the abundance and comprehensiveness of activities being undertaken at the national level. Nor can a document of this type claim to have adequately described the administrative, policy or developmental context in which the IYF is being observed. At the very best, it should be considered as a picture of the IYF around the world at a particular point in time and with a relatively limited focus. A key issue in this undertaking has been the struggle to achieve a balance between descriptive detail and comprehensiveness. This issue has been compounded by the variety of approaches adopted by Member States in reporting and the extraordinary level of innovative activity. While there was abundant opportunity to synthesize the material around common themes or actions, it was felt such an attempt would detract from the use of this document as a source of information on different approaches to the IYF and family issues. The underlying intention remained to encourage international exchange and shared learning among the participants of the IYF concert.

The primary sources of information for this Inventory are the official responses of Member States to a request for information, addressed to them in July 1993. It was recognized, however, that a wealth of other material has been presented on national actions since the first release of the Inventory. Foremost among these supplementary sources were the country papers on the situation of families in the national context and the status of preparations for the Year, prepared for the United Nations regional preparatory meetings, at the governmental level, held in Tunisia, Malta, China and Colombia. In other cases, material supplied by Governments through regular correspondence or in presentations at various forums has also been incorporated; as was information from national coordinating bodies or Governments conveyed through United Nations field offices. Within the limits of severe resource constrants, a special effort has been made to accommodate all information received by the IYF Secretariat up to the point of typesetting for publication.

Despite these efforts, it is inevitable that this Inventory may contain information that is incomplete, outdated, or incorrect in some way. The IYF has released a very dynamic process of action; changes and new developments are rapidly unfolding at all levels. In addition, Governments change, ministries are reorganized, priorities evolve, some projects are not realized while others emerge. The story of IYF is still being written, through the actions of individuals, Governments, organizations and communities all over the world. Notwithstanding the thousands of pages of text that formed the basic background for this publication, it is also clear that there is a great deal happening on the IYF at the national, governmental level, about which we know very little, if anything. Among countries on which we have had no information for this Inventory are also those affected by wars, civil strife and other serious problems, which set completely different priorities for action.

To all those who have responded to our frequent information requests, we offer our sincere thanks and highest appreciation. To all those affected in some way by the shortcomings of this document, we offer our sincere apologies.

It is hoped that this Inventory will be used to forge even greater exchange, at all levels, in the service of families and the broad agenda for sustainable human development that is possible through the basic unit of all societies. This report is but a small chapter in a very big and exciting story being crafted in the lives of families, all over the world, through the International Year of the Family, 1994.

Secretariat
for the International Year of the Family

1 March 1994

ALBANIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Comité organisatif de la celebration
de l'AIF
Ministre du Travail, de l'Emigration,
de la Protection Sociale et des
Ex-Prisonniers Politique
Tirana

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Dashamir Shehi
Ministre du Travail, de l'Emigration,
de la Protection Sociale et des
Ex-Prisonniers Politique
Tirana

NATIONAL ACTION

Following discussions which began in July 1992, a National Coordination Committee for the International Year of the Family has been formed and charged with the task of preparing a national programme. Much of this work was to be accomplished by means of investigations, review of existing documents and by consulting women's organizations. The Committee is also responsible for carrying out programmes at both the local and national levels. Priority activities of the Committee included the support of legislative action to protect the equal rights of all members of the family, promotion of the education of children and social assistance for families at risk (in conditions of poverty). The Committee especially seeks support of financial sources of governmental and non-governmental organizations and to establish relations with institutions and bodies which deal with the problems of families. The Committee includes members of governmental ministries and non-governmental organizations (such as women's organizations, trade unions and educational institutes), and planned a national seminar to launch the Year and to sensitize public opinion to the objectives of the IYF as they relate to the situation of families in Albania.

The Committee is undertaking its activities in cooperation with the Institute for Pedagogical Studies of Tirana and with the University of Tirana.

ALGERIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Madame Saida Benhabyles
Cómite national pour la célébration
de l'année internationale de la famille
Ministre de la Solidarité Nacionale
Palais de Gouvernement
Alger

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Tewfik Abada
Deputy Director
Cultural, Scientific and
Technical Affairs
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Alger

NATIONAL ACTION

A National Committee responsible for preparing the observance of the International Year of the Family has been set up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The National Committee has created two Working Groups. The first is responsible for identifying the non-governmental organizations and other associations, whose activities are connected with the family, and to gather data concerning Algeria's social policies.

The second Working Group is responsible for preparing an action plan for the advancement of the family, and for a programme of IYF celebrations.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Hon. Bernard Percival, Minister
Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth
Women's Affairs and Sports
Chairman
International Year of the Family
Coordinating Committee
Church Street, St. John's
Antigua, West Indies

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Gwendolyn M. Tonge
Executive Director
The Directorate of Women's Affairs
Ministry of Education, Culture, Youth,
Women's Affairs and Sports
Church Street, St. John's
Antigua, West Indies

NATIONAL ACTION

A National Mechanism has been set up to serve as a Co-ordinating Committee for the purpose of planning, stimulating and co-ordinating the activities of the Government, non-governmental organizations and other agencies who will be working on preparing for and observing the International Year of the Family.

Each member of the Committee is responsible for establishing sub-committees to plan programmes in different areas of development for the improvement of family life in the country.

ARGENTINA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Presidente del Consejo Nacional del Menor y la Familia Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social Buenos Aires	Dr. Jose Atilio Alvarez Presidente del Consejo Nacional del Menor y la Familia Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social Buenos Aires

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The preparation and observance of the International Year of the Family is being undertaken in concert with many ongoing initiatives and programmes for families in Argentina, particularly those discharged through the National Youth and Family Council (NYFC) under the direct authority of the Ministry of Health and Social Action. The Year is seen as an opportunity to strengthen existing programmes and schemes, which are developed in close and ongoing consultation with families themselves. Programmes to strengthen families include the: (1) Preventative programme of financial aid for families; (2) Non-institutional observation and treatment programme providing family approaches to child care; (3) Day care grant programme; (4) Marriage promotion programme for clients of other NYFC programmes; (5) Study grant programme supporting youth education; (6) Emergency Housing Subsidy Programme for families with crisis or pressing shelter problems; (7) Programme for the prevention of neglect and the protection of children at risk; (8) Continuing education and employment training programme; (9) Probation programme with a strong family-based orientation; (10) HIV control and prevention programme; (11) School meals sub-programme, as well as others dealing with foster care, adoptions, the elderly, persons with disabilities.

Action areas identified by the Government include: efficiency measures to ensure optimal use of resources; reductions in institutional care programmes for children and disabled and elderly persons; increase in preventative and alternative family care programmes; priority attention to the care of criminally delinquent youth; enhanced quality of life of persons receiving assistance; enhanced community involvement; effective compliance with international instruments concerning the family, children, disabled persons and the elderly; introduction of innovative programmes through pilot projects.

Major Activities

The National Youth and Family Council has set up a committee charged with responsibility for formulating a plan of action, programmes and public awareness campaigns to promote the family.

During 1992, a number of events, meetings and conferences were organized on the themes of children, youth and the family, which will continue to be key themes for discussion during the Year.

The major reforms undertaken in recent years in connection with the family are the Filiation and Parental Authority Act and the Divorce Act amending the marital property regime and the minimum age for marriage.

The Government has reiterated the need for an international convention on the rights of the family.

Steps are being taken with the Organization of American States (OAS), through the Inter-American Children's Institute, with a view to formulating, by 1994, a draft covenant on the rights of the family at the level of the Americas, based on the Declaration of the Rights of the Family, which was adopted under OAS General Assembly resolution 1984.

The Government of Argentina has noted that international co-operation in the area of family protection and welfare has been increasing and improving, especially within the regional context.

Particular attention is being given to work at the inter-American regional level by the Inter-American Council on Private International Law, a specialized body of the OAS, which has recently been dealing with such issues as the family, child restitution, alimony, kidnapping of and illegal traffic in children, adoption, etc.

Argentina planned to mark the launch of IYF activities by organizing a meeting of government experts and members of non-governmental organizations in November-December 1993.

ARMENIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Ms. Ashot Yessaian, President
National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
Minister of Labour and Social Security
of the Republic of Armenia
Issahakian 18
Yerevan 25

NATIONAL ACTION

A National Committee for the International Year of the Family has been formed under the authority of the Minister of Labour and Social Security to coordinate activities associated with the Year in Armenia. The Government has indicated that social policy concerns cannot be considered as subordinate to those in the political and economic spheres. The National Committee has organized an International Forum entitled "Armenian Family: Today and Tomorrow" to be held in Yerevan, in April 1994.

AUSTRALIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
The Office of the International Year of the Family Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services PO Box 666 Woden ACT 2606	Ms. Isobel Frean Acting Assistant Secretary Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services PO Box 666 Woden ACT 2606

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

Australia will use the Year to highlight the diverse role of families in Australian society and to improve existing services and policies for families through the development of an Australian Agenda for Families. It is intended that this agenda will provide a focus for maintaining the momentum gained through the International Year of the Family well into the next decade.

The Office of the IYF, established following a November 1992 commitment by the Prime Minister, is co-ordinating Australia's response to the Year. The Office's broad charter is to involve all spheres of Government, the community and business in the development of a plan of action for the Year, which will ensure that the Year's activities are focused on issues relevant to all Australian families.

A new Family Services portfolio was established in April 1993, and over 50 new initiatives for Australian families were announced in the 1993 Budget. These include:

(i) Significant increases in the supply, affordability and quality of child care; measures to avoid child abuse; and the introduction of an allowance paid to people caring for children at home;
(ii) Extension of the Government's commitment to work on family issues through the implementation of ILO Convention 156;
(iii) Additional assistance for people with disabilities and their families in obtaining and retaining paid employment; particularly in the critical period of transition from school to work;
(iv) The "Strengthening Community Aged Care" package, which provides more flexibility, greater levels of home based support and assistance for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities;

AUSTRALIA - 2

(v) An extension of the life of the National Committee on Violence against Women, and new domestic violence referral services to assist people in rural and remote communities; and

(vi) Other initiatives to assist rural families, including extensions to the Telecentres, Rural Counselling, and Rural Business Development programmes.

A National Council on IYF, composed of nineteen members, and chaired by Professor Bettina Cass, eminent in Australian social policy, will be consulting widely to maximize community efforts into the Year and its outcome.

The Council has written to leading organizations and community groups, seeking comments on a discussion paper to be released in November 1993. These submissions, together with meetings with key organizations and community groups, commencing in February 1994, will inform about the Council's contribution to the Agenda for Families being developed by the Government.

Upon the recommendation of the Council, the Minister has agreed to adopt the following priority areas for action during 1994:

(i) Recognition of the diversity of families in Australia, and celebrating their vast contribution to Australia's social and economic welfare and cultural heritage;

(ii) Recognizing the rights of families and every family member - children, young people, older members, women and members with a disability;

(iii) Strengthening partnerships within families, and families with their communities;

(iv) The challenges faced by families in combining work and family responsibilities;

(v) Gender equality issues;

(vi) Acknowledgement of the economic value of the unpaid caring and nurturing provided by families;

(vii) The needs of disadvantaged families, including those from a non-English speaking background, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;

(viii) The needs of 'troubled' families; and

(ix) Family abuse and violence.

In addition to the IYF National Council, the two other main co-ordinating mechanisms are:

(1) An Intergovernmental IYF Officials Working Group, which provides a network to nationally co-ordinate IYF activities between the Commonwealth, States and Local Governments.

(2) The Commonwealth Government IYF Inter-departmental Committee, which has representation from all government portfolios and has working groups examining: work and family; indigenous families; family research; and access to information by families.

The Prime Minister and the Minister for Family Services jointly launched Australia's response to IYF on 1 December 1993 at the Australian Work and Family Awards. This coincided with the United Nations launch of IYF on 7 December in the 48th session of the General Assembly, where also a message from Australia was conveyed.

The Australian launch offered an opportunity to release a resource kit which included: a discussion paper, "National Directions for 1994"; a Calendar of key dates and events; and a directory of all Commonwealth Government programmes serving families.

The IYF publications strategy also includes production of the IYF Australia newsletter; regular fact sheets to assist the Government, community and private sector groups to plan to meet IYF objectives for Australia, and discussion and research papers.

A national communication strategy, including an Australian theme for IYF, and the development of a creative print and television campaign, is under way.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The time frame for major activities planned is:

August 1993	Release of "Focus on Families" budget highlight document;
November 1993	Release of National Council discussion paper on IYF priorities to peak organizations;
1 December 1993	Official launch of the IYF in Australia, and release of national directions for 1994 by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Family Services;
7 December 1993	Australian representation to the United Nations launch of IYF at the 48th session of the General Assembly;
January 1994	Launch of 'IYF Australia' national communications campaign;
February 1994	Commencement of National Council community consultations;
March 1994	Closing date of submissions to National Council on the discussion paper;
15 May 1994	Observance of the United Nations International Day of Families;
15-21 May 1994	National Families Week (proposed), including a major media event;
September 1994	Circulation of draft Australian Agenda for Families for consultation and comment to community, Government and local Government agencies;
November 1994	National Conference on the Family, Adelaide;
December 1994	Release of an Australian Agenda for Families;
June 1995	Release of a summary evaluation report on the IYF.

AUSTRIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Federal Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family Postfach 10 Franz-Josefs Kai 51 A-1010 Vienna	Magister Ronald Rosenmayr Director General Federal Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family Franz-Josefs Kai 51 A-1010 Vienna

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Austrian National Committee for the Preparation of the International Year of the Family has been established in 1992 under the chairmanship of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Youth and Family (Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Jugend und Familie (BMUJF). The Committee is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of both the Federal and the state (Land) authorities in matters relating to the Year. The Committee has as members a representative from every Federal Ministry, from the Austrian Cities' Association, the Austrian Communities' Association, and from the Advisory Council for Family Policy.

The National Committee has established two sub-committees, one for organizational, and the other for financial questions. Fifteen Working Groups have been formed under the leadership of experts proposed by the Austrian Family Organizations to investigate and report upon family-related themes. Participation in these Working Groups is open to all interested institutions and individuals active in the area of family policy or family care.

The Committee developed an extensive advisory conference entitled "Family is the Future" to help launch the International Year of the Family, on 10 December 1993, as part of its plans to activate research and public awareness on family issues.

The themes and priorities decided upon by the National Committee reflect the concerns expressed by the 15 Working Groups, including violence, housing shortages, unemployment, youth, disability issues, legal problems, health and the elderly. In the course of the advisory conference, the 15 Working Groups presented their interim reports on the family. A final report of the Working Groups will be presented to the Parliament for development and implementation of family-related policy measures.

An official programme of activities planned throughout all the Austrian Bundesländer on the occasion of the IYF was also published and distributed at the advisory conference. There will be an issue of an information brochure, "Family and Work"; celebrations of family festivals; and information will be distributed in the schools.

Proposals from the Bundesländer (Burgenland, Lower Austria, Upper Austria, Styria, Carinthia, Salzburg, Tyrol, Vorarlberg and Vienna) have been comprehensive, original and varied, covering every aspect of the family and its situation in Austria - positive and negative, with appropriate recommendations to the local Government and to the Austrian Federal authorities, when deemed necessary.

Major activities for IYF

Throughout the country, there will be widespread distribution of pamphlets, stickers, posters, etc.; information brochures will be distributed to all schools; and various family organizations, such as the Österreichischer Familienbund, Freiheitlicher Familienverband, and the Katholischer Familienverband, etc., will report on the results of their workshops, seminars, round-table meetings and other activities.

Suggestions for further projects for the IYF-1994 will include the recommendations from the advisory conference, "Family is the Future", concerned, inter alia, with the establishment of an Austrian Institute for Family Research; drawing up a Family Development programme on the basis of results obtained through the Austrian National Committee's Working Groups; comprehensive family and parent education; welfare activities; the family and the elderly; dealing with domestic violence and juvenile delinquency.

Other IYF activities include:

- In almost all Bundesländer, there will be opening and/or closing ceremonies for IYF with special substantive themes.

- Further activities will focus on family and leisure time, with family festivals, children festivals, children drawing competition, playing ground projects, concerts, theater productions, exhibitions, etc.

- Various meetings, symposia and workshops on different family-related issues will be organized in the context of the International Year of the Family throughout the year.

- Family-related research and the establishment of an Austrian Institute for Family Research will be recommended by the advisory conference. Various research studies on the situation of families are being carried out, at the level of Bundesländer as well as on other subjects, such as children and the family and family services.

- The publication of books on various family-related issues should encourage different groups of people to participate in the observance of the Year.

- A journalist competition was planned to encourage family-related reporting in the media.

- A competition among the general public for ideas on improving the situation of families and its individual members will also encourage participation of the public.

- Other competition projects will award cities, states, companies, working and living places that have implemented family-friendly measures.

- Different political measures at national and local levels will be implemented to benefit families, including the installation of family advisory boards. Services for families will also be subject of a public information day.

- Various family and parent education projects will focus on educational and partnership issues; this includes the organization of meetings and workshops, the publication of information brochures on educational guidance, as well as the establishment of a family academy and family advisory service centres, etc.

- Further projects include: the integration of immigrant families; Third World projects to improve the international communication between families; families with disabled members; families at risk; domestic violence; family and the elderly; family and work; family and unemployment; family-friendly environment; family and living space; and various projects on children and the family.

AZERBAIJAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

The Secretariat for the
International Year of the Family
Ministry of Labour and
Social Protection
Baku

NATIONAL ACTION

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan attaches considerable importance to the problems of the family, its planning and its protection. Therefore, Azerbaijan regards the United Nations proclamation of the International Year of the Family as an important step towards increasing State assistance to families in need, such as those with only one wage earner, low-income families, and families with disabled or elderly members. Attempts are being made to reinforce national legislation in this area, based on international standards and principles of social policy and basic human rights. The Ministry has drafted the republican legislation of labour, which is due to be implemented in 1994, during the International Year of the Family.

This Bill provides rights for citizens to work and protection for working teenagers, their compulsory periodical medical examinations, and prohibition of their employment under unhealthy conditions.

Provisions are also included to protect employed women, particularly those with children or who are pregnant, so that they may obtain adequate leave from work, and not have their wages reduced or stopped during their absence. Social insurance will be provided for women before, during and after giving birth, together with partially paid leave for care of the child until the age of three years.

BAHAMAS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

Some of the priority issues and problems identified by the Government and considered to have negative effects on family life in the Bahamas include unemployment; inadequate housing for low-income families and senior citizens; lack of parenting skills; and the need for planned recreational activities for young people.

The Government has identified other issues and problems confronting Bahamian families that need to be addressed in preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family, such as:

(i) Teenage pregnancy and juvenile delinquency;
(ii) Drug and alcohol abuse;
(iii) Illegal immigrants;
(iv) The plight of disabled family members;
(v) Illiteracy;
(vi) Inexpensive day care for low-income families;
(vii) Inflation; and
(viii) Single-parent families.

Family-focused projects which may be included in requests for technical and financial support from multi-lateral or bilateral agencies are:

(i) Housing for the elderly;
(ii) Emergency shelter for women and children;
(iii) Drug and alcohol abuse prevention and treatment programmes; and
(iv) Programmes for juvenile delinquents, 16-18 years old.

Additional considerations include that the Government's information media may be used to publicize the IYF and its objectives, and private and NGO media encouraged to do so as well.

BAHRAIN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

The National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
Division of Women's Affairs and
Family Development
Department of Social Development
P.O. Box 32333, Isa Town, Bahrain

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Faezah Ebrahim Al Zayani
Director of Social Development
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
P.O. Box 32333, Isa Town, Bahrain

NATIONAL ACTION

To prepare for the activities of the International Year of the Family, the Government of Bahrain, through the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, has established a National Committee for the IYF, composed of representatives from the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs, the Interior, Information, Education, Health, as well as non-governmental bodies, such as the University of Bahrain and private social institutions.

The Government has indicated that the following priorities concerned with the family should be stressed for the IYF:

(i) The break-up of the family unit and its social repercussions;
(ii) Unemployment and its socio-economic consequences;
(iii) The absence of legal protection/codes of personnel status;
(iv) Increase in the number of divorces;
(v) Literacy and its effects on families;
(vi) Healthy environment and human settlements and the family;
(vii) Protection of disabled persons in the family;
(viii) Poverty and the absence of shelter for families;
(ix) Family budget; and
(x) The participation of family members in social development.

BANGLADESH

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
National Co-ordination Committee for the Observance of the International Year of the Family Ministry of Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka	Secretary Ministry of Social Welfare Working Committee Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Dhaka

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The International Year of the Family in Bangladesh is being observed as an integral and mobilized element within the overall development strategy for this country. In recent years, the Government has given family welfare high priority through both the public and the private sectors, and the awareness of the need to improve the condition of individual family members has grown enormously. The family has been earmarked as the viable unit of the development process at both the individual and societal levels. Thus, the Government has made provisions in both the 4th (1990-1995) and 5th (1995-2000) Five-Year Plans, to improve the condition of families so that they, in turn, can play a vital role in the development process. Because the family is considered the main focus of all socio-economic development activities of the country, necessary efforts are being made to make families a self-reliant and contributing force in the development of the community and the country as a whole.

Both the Government and non-governmental organizations have initiated various programmes, particularly in rural areas, aimed at helping families play a more effective role in their society to help alleviate poverty, to develop skills, to combat health problems, etc. These efforts are joined by international action, including the Government embarking on a programme of poverty alleviation in line with the Dhaka Declaration of the 7th SAARC Summit.

The Department of Social Services has been operating rural social service programmes for the welfare of rural families in all the Thanas of Bangladesh (a Thana has an average of 150,000 to 200,000 people), and has been conducting a rural family and child welfare project in collaboration with Enfants du Monde (EDM). Future programmes for families include health and welfare; education and training; women's development; and family welfare.

In November 1992, the Ministry of Social Welfare, being the Focal Point for the observance of the International Year of the Family, formed a National Co-ordination Committee comprising representatives from six ministries and one from the Prime Minister's Office. The terms of reference of this Committee are to:

(i) Liaise with the Co-ordinator for the IYF;

(ii) Draw up a national Plan of Action for Bangladesh's participation in the IYF;

(iii) Establish the mechanism for implementing and monitoring this plan of action; and

(iv) Define the type and level of participation in regional and international activities related to IYF.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Consistent with the overall strategy for the observance of the Year in Bangladesh, the programmes and activities of various ministries are implicated in national actions which include:

1) Through the Ministry of Women's Affairs, special programmes for women, giving high priority to poverty alleviation, expansion of training-cum-employment, credit programmes for self-employment and promoting non-governmental organizations.

2) Through the Department of Social Services, special initiatives to alleviate poverty and promote income generating production, skills development, socio-cultural development and practical measures in health, sanitation, family planning, primary education and agriculture.

3) Through the Department of Family Planning, programmes in family health education, local leadership development, health and welfare centres, community participation, upgraded services, child nutrition and immunization.

Priority is also being given to broad initiatives in the field of health, physical planning and housing, education and training, and youth development.

Special events in observance of the Year in 1994 include:

1) A three-day comprehensive programme arranged at the Bangladesh 'Shishu' (Children's) Academy from 1 to 3 January, comprised of a book and handicraft exhibition, circus, musical performance, open air theatre, folk art show, doll dance, Kabigan (folk song), Zarigan, and exhibition of children's paintings.

2) A one-day Mela (Fair) in each district arranged by the respective Municipal Authority and District Administration.

3) 15 May 1994 will be observed as the International Day of Families, in conformity with the international community. A short documentary film will be telecast and a documentary film shown in cinema halls and public places.

4) The Honourable Prime Minister will launch a commemorative stamp on 15 May 1994 at a special inaugural function at the Osmani 'Smiriti' (Memorial) Hall. A souvenir will be published, covering programmes in connection with the observance of the Year.

5) Approved slogans regarding the International Year of the Family will be publicized through the mass media.

6) Approximately thirty thousand posters will be printed for publicizing the observance of the International Year of the Family.

7) The following themes will be highlighted in a short film and souvenir:

   (a) The rights and dignity of women and children in the family;

   (b) Meeting the basic needs of food, clothing, education, health and accommodation for the family.

8) A closing ceremony and cultural function will be arranged in the last week of December 1994. A seminar will be held to evaluate the progress for the whole year and to prepare a programme to be taken up for the next years.

BARBADOS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

The Hon. Wesley Hall, G.C.M., H.B.M., M.P.
Ministry of Labour, Public Works,
Community Development and Sports
National Committee for the International
Year of the Family
5th Floor, National Insurance Building
Fairchild Street,
St. Michael

FOCAL POINT

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Labour, Public Works,
Community Development and Sports
5th Floor, National Insurance Building
Fairchild Street
St. Michael

NATIONAL ACTION

The National Committee for the International Year of the Family has been broken down into sub-committees that reflect the priority areas which the Government will address. These are: public relations and fund-raising; legislation; education; research; health; family social services and programmes. These broad areas of concern reflect the Government's aim to adopt a comprehensive and integrative approach to the family as the basic unit of Barbadian society, and one that constitutes an integral part of the country's efforts to promote social and economic development.

The Committee is broad-based and comprised of prominent members of society, active in religion, education, health and law, as well as representatives of non-governmental organizations in the area of family social services.

The Committee has launched a public information campaign utilizing the mass media. In sensitizing the general public about the IYF, the Committee seeks to solicit the public's views on the status of the family in Barbados.

The National Committee for the IYF has had regular meetings and its sub-committees have submitted the following programmes of action during IYF, 1994:

(i) International Year of the Family Prayer; an IYF Calendar; and Year of the Family 'Jingle';

(ii) TV and radio programmes;

(iii) Panel discussions and debates on the IYF theme;

BARBADOS - 2

(iv) Research, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, on family issues, such as the problems of domestic violence, child maintenance, and ageing;

(v) In collaboration with the private sector and the media, programmes are being launched to publicize the IYF; and

(vi) Co-operation with non-governmental organizations, trade unions, parent - teacher associations, and community organizations to design and implement programmes for the IYF.

BELARUS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

State Committee on Labour and
the Social Protection of the Population
of the Republic of Belarus
Prospeket Masherova 23
220050 Minsk

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Georgi Petrovich Badei
State Committee on Labour and
the Social Protection of the Population
of the Republic of Belarus
Prospekt Masherova 23, 220050 Minsk

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In August 1990, on instruction from the Council of Ministers, the State Committee on Labour and the Social Protection of the Population, together with public organizations and other ministries and agencies of Belarus, submitted proposals to the Government of the Republic regarding the composition of the Byelorussian National Committee for the Preparation of the Year, along with a draft programme of measures.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The National Committee has formulated a plan entitled the Basic Principles of State Policy. Its central purpose is to enhance the status of women and the family and assure the protection of mothers and children.

The main objectives of the plan are to:

(a) Ensure an autonomous position for the family and egalitarian relationships among its members;

(b) Expand the participation of women in the socio-political life of the country and in the work place;

(c) Promote equality among men and women in society and in employment;

(d) Eliminate gender inequalities in employment recruitment;

(e) Encourage family planning in ways that take into account the educational and cultural background of the population; and

(f) Eliminate the system of children's homes so that all children are raised within the family.

BELARUS - 2

Special attention is to be given to the need to bring about a radical improvement in working conditions and to guarantee job security during the transition to a market economy, as well as to improving the quality of pre- and post-natal care for women. Of particular importance is the need to provide assistance to single-parent families, families with a large number of children and those which include elderly persons.

Efforts have been under way to inform the public about the goals of the IYF and the Government's priorities in observing the Year. Research projects are being conducted to investigate various problems concerning the family.

BELGIUM

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ministère de la Prévoyance sociale
Coordonnateur de l'AIF
rue de la Vierge Noire, 3 C
à 1000 Bruxelles

FOCAL POINT

M.E. Deloof
Secrétaire général au
Ministère de la Prévoyance sociale
Coordonnateur de l'AIF
rue de la Vierge Noire, 3 C
à 1000 Bruxelles

NATIONAL ACTION

In Belgium, family policy is not centralized; there is no Ministry for the Family to deal comprehensively with all aspects of family policy. Family-related issues are implicated in many different areas of public policy, however, and responsibility for family policy is distributed among the Federal, the regional and the local levels. Observances of the International Year of the Family in Belgium will reflect this multilateral approach to family issues in general.

At the Federal level, family issues are addressed through civil law and income policy. An important aspect of the family dimension in the area of social security is the granting of family benefits for the education of children up to the age of 25, providing they continue their studies.

At the regional level, services to families within communities are many and varied, including: child-care facilities during parents' working hours; services to help the elderly; family consultation services; and pre- and post-natal assistance.

The developments that have confronted the authorities in Belgium in recent years mainly involve (i) the economic activity of women; (ii) new types of cohabiting partnerships; (iii) population ageing; and (iv) the protection of family members against domestic violence.

- The increased participation of women in the work place has fundamentally affected the organization of family life. The need to combine occupational activity and family life is creating an enormous demand for child-care facilities for young children. These facilities have been expanded and promoted, and part of the income from welfare contribution is being allocated for building nurseries.

- New types of common living arrangements, cohabitation outside marriage, so-called part-time couples, etc. have been extensively discussed in reports. Civil law has been adapted to respond to these developments; the rights of both spouses are now equal, divorce has become easier, etc.

- Further new needs have arisen as a result of population ageing, the disappearance of families with three generations living under the same roof, and the rise in the percentage of working women.

- For a long time, the question of violence in the family has been a taboo subject. Now, the authorities are trying to provide assistance by promoting the establishment of shelters for battered women and help centres for abused and abandoned children.

A Belgian National Co-ordinating Committee for the IYF has been formed, bringing together all organizations in the country concerned with family issues. National and regional bodies with responsibilities for family affairs are represented on the Committee. A Working Group was set up by the National Committee, in which non-governmental organizations as well as regional and national authorities are represented. This Working Group was formed so that it maintains a proper political, philosophical and linguistic balance.

Numerous non-governmental organizations will be preparing a programme of special events for the IYF. The Flemish-speaking, French-speaking and German-speaking communities will also be organizing their own programmes in observance of the Year.

The Working Group has also drawn up a programme of events. A seminar to launch the Year will be held in March 1994 on the subject, "Families and Society in Transition". For the first day of the seminar, the programme will deal with the theme, "Family Resources". Four sub-themes will deal with the rights of family members regarding social security; families and existential security; family benefits and children's rights; and families and taxation. All subject areas fall within the competence of the national authorities. The Seminar programme is to be supplemented by a second day devoted to those subjects which fall within the competence of the communities.

A press conference was planned for the beginning of 1994 to launch the national observances of the Year.

BENIN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Comité d'organisation (AIF)
Ministre du Travail de l'Emploi
et des Affaires Sociales
c/o Ambassade de la République du Bénin
Rüdingerstrasse 10
53179 Bonn
Germany

FOCAL POINT

Ministère du Travail de l'Emploi
et des Affaires Sociales
c/o Mission Permanente de la République
du Bénin auprès des Nations Unies
4 East 73rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10021
United States of America

NATIONAL ACTION

Benin, as a first step towards celebrating the International Year of the Family, established a National Co-ordinating Committee, under the direct authority of the Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Affairs. The Decree creating the Committee and its terms of reference were adopted in August 1992. The Committee includes representatives from public bodies, non-governmental organizations, associations dealing with family issues and religious groups.

In addition, many local committees will work to prepare a programme of activities for the IYF. A National Programme has been formed and includes:

Public awareness meetings dealing with the following topics:

(i) Health matters, especially tropical diseases such as Guinea worm, malaria, intestinal ailments, the problems of polluted water and unsanitary, unhygienic conditions;

(ii) AIDS - its risks for the family and society, and preventive measures;

(iii) Family planning;

(iv) Legal issues concerning protection of mothers and children;

(v) Re-opening the National Centre for Protection of Children and Adolescents and strenthening its activities and relations with parents;

(vi) Prevention of child abuse;

(vii) Youth and AIDS.

Public debates will also be conducted on various topics, such as youth and employment; standards laid down on behalf of the family and elderly persons by the Ministry of Justice and Legislation and the Association of African Jurists (AJA); education of parents concerning child hygiene and feeding in rural areas; improvement of family income in rural areas; and family planning.

Radio and TV round-table meetings will deal with similar topics, including subjects directed towards young people and their problems, e.g. youth and drugs; street children; etc. Efforts will also be made to disseminate information on international and national legal instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Special initiatives will also be taken for youth in the country, dealing with such issues as: unwanted marriage, dowry, abortion, divorce and street children.

Training initiatives are also an important element of the national action programme of Benin. Seminars and other training measures will be undertaken on: nutrition and breast-feeding; maternal and children's health, including family planning; prevention of diarrhoeic diseases and malarial illness; and youth and development.

Some of the special measures to be undertaken as concrete contributions to observance of the Year will include:

(1) Follow-up to the initiative "Hospitals are Babies' Friends" through an awards programme for medical institutions for meritorious work in the promotion of maternal breast-feeding;
(2) Creation of Therapy and Oral Rehydration units in medical institutions in order to better cope with infantile diarrhoea;
(3) Enlarging the use of impregnated mosquito nets.

Legislative initiatives include:

(1) Elaboration of national legislation concerning the commercialization of substitutes for mothers' milk;
(2) Popularization of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
(3) Awareness raising on the legal protections available to mothers and children.

BOLIVIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Organismo Nacional del Menor, Mujer y Familia (ONAMFA) Ed. Loteria Nacional 4, 5 y 6 Piso P.B. 5960 Avda. Mariscal Sta. Cruz La Paz	Organismo Nacional del Menor, Mujer y Familia (ONAMFA) Ed. Loteria Nacional 4, 5 y 6 Piso P.B. 5960 Avda. Mariscal Sta. Cruz La Paz

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

All matters connected with the observance of the International Year of the Family in Bolivia are the responsibility of the Organismo Nacional del Menor, Mujer y Familia (National Organization for Youth, Women and the Family), which has brought together public and non-governmental organizations to work jointly and more effectively in preparing for IYF.

The National Organization has planned media campaigns to publicize the IYF, thus generating increased awareness among the Bolivian people of the importance of strengthening the family as the basic unit of society.

Since the Bolivian population comprises various racial groups with diverse customs and values, arrangements had been made to undertake a complex socio-anthropological, psycho-pedagogical and legal study to determine the specific characteristics of the family structure in the country's different regions.

As in other developing countries, Bolivian families are going through a severe crisis owing to pressing economic problems. Thus, a project was being implemented with the aim of assisting Bolivian families by providing health and nutritional education, legal guidance, and other services.

Seminars, workshops, and meetings are also being planned to promote analysis, at the national level, of the problems being faced by families as a result of economic crisis.

The implementation of other activities to mark the IYF 1994 were also being considered.

BOLIVIA - 2

The National Organization for Youth, Women and the Family (ONAMFA), as the head of the sector for social action in the field of family issues, has undertaken initiatives to:

1) Establish and maintain relations with national and international organizations and coordinate activities at the national level;

2) Strengthen institutional capabilities for human resource development.

ONAMFA, which serves as the coordinating body for the IYF in Bolivia, was created by Order of the President of the Republic, pursuant to the Code for Minors, approved by Law on 18 December 1992.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
	Professor Tatjana Ljujić Mijatović Ambassador Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the United Nations (Vienna) Argentinierstrasse 36/2 Stock/Tür 8 1040 Vienna, Austria

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina has indicated it is unable to participate in preparing for the International Year of the Family, since all activities concerning the IYF have been reduced to helping those families survive who have not yet been victims of the war.

Many families of all ethnic groups have been evicted from their homes; most people do not know if close family relatives are still alive, or where they are; and hundreds of thousands of refugees are desperately trying to find out any details of those relatives left behind in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Government reports that no one in Bosnia-Herzegovina today can begin to contemplate how to ease the suffering, especially in winter, of the remaining population without intensive support for a just solution of the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and concrete help in providing clothes, food, and other necessities.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports Bandar Seri Begawan 1200 Negara	Social Affairs Services Unit Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports Bandar Seri Begawan 1200 Negara

NATIONAL ACTION

The Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports, as the National Co-ordinating Committee, and as the Focal Point for preparing the International Year of the Family, launched its Happy Family Campaign in 1991 with a symposium. The Campaign was officially opened by Her Majesty the Raja Isteri, and a panel of speakers gave lectures for parents on topics that included:

(i) The Care of Children in preparation for a Happy Family;

(ii) The Family in Islam;

(iii) The Legal Aspects of the Family; and

(iv) Child Abuse and Domestic Violence.

To celebrate the launching of the campaign, two songs were composed; a campaign logo was introduced; a commemorative stamp was issued; and a poster competition was held for school children and young people throughout the country.

In November 1991, in a follow-up campaign, a number of projects were organized, including a talk on child abuse for the benefit of families staying at the Water Village.

In August 1992, another project was centred on families living in the country's resettlement areas. The topic stressed the value of good neighbourliness for creating a positive community spirit so important for social goodwill and family happiness.

All the projects were well received by communities throughout the country.

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM - 2

In July 1993, the Organising Committee held a children's concert with the theme, "Thank you Father - Thank you Mother", and on 1 August 1993, a special lecture on the Happy Family was given for members of various women's organizations and other members of the public.

Tentative programmes for the IYF include:

(i) The launching of a family welfare service;

(ii) A seminar on good parental skills; and

(iii) The "Family Day" to be introduced into the annual calendar.

BURKINA FASO

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

La Commission nationale inter-institutions
c/o Mission Permanente auprès des Nations
Unies de Burkina Faso
115 East 73rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10021
USA

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

To give due emphasis to the International Year of the Family, the Minister Delegate for Social Action and the Family set up, in 1991, the National Commission against Discrimination, a Commission that includes members from more than ten ministries and from associations or organizations concerned with family issues. It includes three sub-committees: (i) Politico-Legal Committee; (ii) Social and Public Health Committee; and (iii) Economic Committee.

Discussion meetings to examine major issues confronting families in Burkina Faso today in the social, economic, legal, health and cultural areas are planned, with a view to listing the main current concerns of families as a basis for proposals on activities to help resolve the problems identified.

The Commission has drawn up a National Plan of Action for the IYF to cover all 30 provinces in Burkina Faso.

In general, activities connected with the IYF aim at increasing public awareness of the major issues concerning the family through an information and education campaign, including: health, education; self-sufficiency; housing; social integration of older persons and those with disabilities; ecological and environmental concerns; agricultural methods and technology.

The National Action Plan for the IYF will also complement and strengthen initiatives being undertaken in respect to various problems concerning families, such as: enforcement of existing legislation; the need for additional protections for families; lack of knowledge of those legal protections that currently exist. Action will be taken to build upon: elaboration and adoption of strategies and national action plan to strengthen the role of women in the development process; the national plans of action for children (1991), the environment (1991), family planning (1989), adult literacy programmes; and other social, economic and environmental initiatives.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The main objectives of the IYF observance in Burkina Faso are to highlight the importance of families; to better understand their role, functions and structure; to better appreciate their interests, situations and problems; to support policies aimed at and helping families to support family welfare; and strengthen the development and/or application of legislative and policy supports for families.

With these objectives in mind, the following activities have been planned:

1. Launching events. The celebration activities for the IYF were planned to begin in the second week of January, 1994 with:

(i) A declaration on the International Year of the Family;
(ii) A round-table conference (broadcast by radio and television), which will include institutions, NGOs, and family-related associations;
(iii) Three debates on the crisis in the Burkinabé family;
(iv) Additional TV and radio programmes on the family;
(v) A round-table meeting on single-parent families;
(vi) Theatre productions oriented towards the family;
(vii) Three debates on the importance of 'responsible parents';
(viii) Visit to a housing centre for the elderly; and
(ix) Inauguration of the Centre for Promoting Social Affairs and the Education for Family Life in Ouagadougou.

2. IYF activities throughout the Year. Among the activities to be carried out during the Year are the following:

(i) Awareness campaign of a code concerning individual and family rights;
(ii) Translation of the code into the principal national languages;
(iii) Organization of conferences in the provinces;
(iv) Organization of drawing competitions in primary schools;
(v) Widespread awareness campaign on the question of nutritional education;
(vi) Sensitizing the population on problems concerning single-parent families through quarterly conferences, cinematic debates, and plays;
(vii) Training and awareness of systematic early medical detection of the main diseases affecting women; and
(viii) Radio and television programmes that include the following themes: responsible parenthood; the problem of minors frequenting bars; the role of the elderly in society; family welfare; conjugal harmony; women in prison; education of children; persons and family code - forced marriage,

levirate, divorce; problems faced by women who head families; AIDS and the family; families and religion.

Sensitizing seminars on major family-related problems in Burkina Faso will be held for decision-makers, planners, practitioners as well as for women's associations and non-governmental organizations.

3. Long-term activities. Long-term activities will include: (i) collecting statistical data over the past five years on marriage, divorce, and the main reasons for the break-up of families; women who head families; (ii) improving the awareness of the population concerning family rights; and (iii) a study of informal savings systems and their economic impact on women.

BURUNDI

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Ministry of Advancement of Women
and Social Welfare
Bujumbura

NATIONAL ACTION

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Advancement of Women and Social Welfare, a National Committee has been formed, whose task is to prepare for the celebrations for the International Year of the Family in Burundi.

The Committee comprises 19 members from various institutions and non-governmental organizations concerned with family affairs. Various religious bodies are also associated with its activities.

Two sub-committees have been set up, one in charge of preparing a comprehensive document on the problems of Burundi families; the other, to present a complete list of institutions, governmental and non-governmental, concerned with family issues in the widest sense.

The forthcoming documents will serve as a basis for the National Committee to define activities dealing chiefly with information and public awareness campaigns at the national and the provincial levels, by means of radio and television programmes, articles in the press, and conferences.

A major activity foreseen within the framework of the IYF is to put at the disposal of the public at large a reliable review of the real situation of families.

Other important activities include a revision of the law benefiting women and families as well as improvement of consultancy possibilities.

CAMEROON

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Le Ministère des Affairs et de la Condition Féminine Comité National de l' Année Inernationale de la Famille Yaounde	M. Jean Christophe Tchouatieu Tchadjou Directeur Direction de la Protection de l'Individu et de la Famille Le Ministère des Affairs Sociales et de la Condition Féminine (MINASCOF) Yaounde

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Government has created a National Co-ordinating Committee to provide direction and leadership for activities in connection with the International Year of the Family. This Committee is comprised of representatives from eight national ministries, whose work, directly or indirectly, is related to the family.

The main IYF objectives in Cameroon are threefold: (1) to raise public awareness regarding the role of the family in a changing society; (ii) to improve family welfare; and (iii) to make the family once again an instrument of social cohesion.

To achieve these objectives, selected activities are to be carried out by various ministries and non-governmental organizations and the National Committee established for the purpose. Detailed activities involve two stages: (i) 1993: sensitizing and mobilizing the population; and (ii) 1994: observing IYF.

To carry out this programme of activities, an information, education and communication campaign to publicize the IYF will be launched. Radio, press and TV will be used to present the problems of the Cameroonian family in a time of change. Publications, posters, leaflets, video and radio programmes will support the campaign. The media coverage will be supported by the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, while practical activities will be supervised by the Information and Documentation Service (IDS) of the Ministry of Social and Women's Affairs (MINASCOF).

The improvement of family welfare will be achieved by numerous activities which include, but are not limited to, measures to improve health, notably of women and girls; projects for improving maternal and child health; and support for the family concerning education for children.

CAMEROON - 2

This will involve such specific measures as organization of a vaccination campaign and refresher courses for medical staff; discussion sessions aimed at reducing maternity risks; promotion of small-scale enterprise; preventative efforts related to cervical and breast cancer, communicable diseases and unwanted pregnancies. Other health-related initiatives include: establishment of ancillary pharmacies, new school medical inspectorates and day nurseries. Initiatives in education include: measures to reduce schooling costs and increase accessibility; organization of inter-provincial proficiency seminars for social workers; inter-provincial seminars for training of marriage counsellors.

Plans are underway to improve the family economic situation through various projects such as: reducing post-harvest losses (Ministry of Agriculture - Community Development) and harvesting wild fruit as an income-generating activity; protection of the family through legislation, including revision of the system of family benefits through the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare; and amendment of legal texts relating to minors through the Ministry of Justice.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The IYF will be celebrated throughout the country with the co-operation of both non-governmental and government organizations.

Supervision and co-ordination of events will be taken care of by the central services of MINASCOF and by the National Committee for the IYF.

At the national level, the IYF will be launched by the Minister for Social and Women's Affairs; at the local level, the initiatives will be mainly media-based through various activities, such as televised debates; round-table discussions; and seminars. These activities will involve various ministries, include the Ministries of Social and Women's Affairs, Public Health, Agriculture, Justice, National Education, and Information and Culture, together with religious organizations and NGOs.

The National IYF Committee is actively collaborating with non-governmental organizations, including through expert seminars on such issues as educational and vocational guidance; child education within the family; parents and the parents' movement; family and culture; nutritional sciences in daily life.

Also, the Provincial Commissions for Social and Women's Affairs will organize demonstrations in collaboration with colleagues from the above-mentioned ministries and the religious authorities, including sporting events and concerts.

It is hoped that many of the actions undertaken under the auspices of the Year can be institutionalized and carried through after 1994. This could include, for example, institutionalizing the vaccination campaign days to be held every year.

CANADA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Her Honor Judge Andrée Ruffo
Mr. Robert Couchman
Co-Chairpersons
Canada Committee for the International
Year of the Family
112-63 Sparks Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P OA6

Mr. Jean-Guy Desgagné
Executive Director

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Nancy Kilgour Carr
Federal Co-ordinator
International Year of the Family
Room 956, Jeanne Mance Building
Tunney's Pasture
Ottawa, Ontario K1A OK9

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Canada has undertaken expansive organizational and programmatic measures in support of IYF. An Office for IYF Co-ordination has been established and staffed within the Department of Health and is responsible for assisting Federal departments and agencies in harmonizing their activities for the IYF and for liaison with provincial governments. In addition, it acts as a secretariat to an Interdepartmental Committee, composed of representatives of federal departments and agencies, and meets regularly as the main governmental coordination mechanism. Because of Canada's constitutional arrangements, provincial and territorial participation will be essential to the success of the IYF. Provincial and territorial governments have also established coordinating bodies for the IYF and are executing broad and intensive provincial action plans for the Year. For example, in Alberta, the Premier's Council in support of Alberta Families has embarked on a major public consultation process; in British Columbia, an initiative on Family Friendly Places has been implemented, while in Quebec, an ambitious programme is in place including hundreds of events in 1994, involving a network of sub-provincial organizing committees.

The Canada Committee for the IYF, a non-profit organization, has also been established as the principal National Coordinating Body under the Honorary Patronage of the Governor General of Canada. Its mandate is to plan, stimulate and support all Canadian IYF initiatives in all sectors of Canadian society. The Federal Government has contributed $2,1 million for the operation of the Canadian Committee. Supported by these funds and contributions from other sources, the Canadian Committee for the IYF is administering a special programme to support IYF-related, community-based activities.

In addition to governmental and multi-sectoral administrations, "Horizon 1994" has been created to act as an umbrella NGO responsible for the promotion and organization of IYF activities in the voluntary and non-governmental sectors. "Horizon 1994" has published documents on the rights of families, and has undertaken numerous initiatives within its programme of action.

Programmes and events for IYF

The Federal Government, through the Federal Coordinator's Office, has initiated a number of programmes and events for observing the IYF. Discussions with federal departments and agencies point to the development of activities in three priority areas: (1) public awareness; (2) research; and (3) funding opportunities.

A federal communications strategy is being developed, including a calendar of IYF events, a brochure on the IYF, and other materials. The National Film Board is undertaking the development of a series of television programmes on the family. Articles have been prepared for inclusion in a variety of publications, including research journals, newsletters, magazines and newspapers.

Family-related research activities are an important IYF focus. Both Statistics Canada and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council are undertaking extensive research initiatives. Statistics Canada plans to publish a series on trends in the social and economic characteristics of Canadian families.

The federal office for IYF Co-ordination has also produced an inventory of federal programmes dealing with the family and a catalogue of federal funding opportunities for family-related initiatives.

Finally, the Federal Government is concentrating on its family-related policies as an employer, e.g. flexible working hours; on-site day care; and parental and other family leave. Many individual federal departments and agencies are considering initiatives in this area, notably workshops, conferences, and articles in employees newsletters.

Substantive issues on the public agenda will include: social and community support for families and parents, including health services; integration of work and family responsibilities; refugee and family immigrant reunification; poverty and income support mechanisms, including family support orders; special needs families, such as Aboriginal, high-risk, single-parent, families of offenders, and families with disabled members; rights of family members, including women and children; abuse within the family, such as sexual and physical abuse, substance abuse, abduction; and evolving roles and responsibilities of families, notably as support networks for learning activities and care for the aged.

CANADA - 3

In addition to facilitating local, multi-sectoral activities, the Canada Committee for the IYF has undertaken a number of national programmes, including the following major initiatives.

(1) A National World and Family Challenge: involving private sector and other partners to sensitize employers to work and family challenges; help employers understand the links between work, family and business success and provide practical tools to plan for family-friendly work places. Three international conferences will be convened on this subject. A booklet and video, "The Work and Family Challenge: Issues and options", have been developed and circulated.

(2) The School and Family Programme: in cooperation with supportive partners, a publication has been prepared on topical family and school issues and a Teachers Activity Guide produced to allow educators to integrate the IYF into the school curriculum in 1994. These publications will be distributed to all elementary and secondary school principals in Canada. "A Family Talk" activity calendar has also been produced, focusing on and facilitating communication in the family; it will be made available to every school age child in Canada.

(3) The State of the Family in Canada: A National Profile - a nation-wide public opinion analysis of issues related to the family is being developed as well as a publication, entitled "Canadian Families", commissioned from the Vanier Institute on the Family, which analyzes structural change in families over several decades.

(4) Family Booklets Programme: four publications on the themes of "Canadian Families", "Work and Family", "Communication within Families" and "Future Generations", are being prepared for a readership of 4 million per issue.

(5) Additional activities include: publication of a newsletter and calendar on IYF events; a comprehensive communication strategy, including televised public service announcements and information programmes featuring well-known personalities/entertainers; a direct mail campaign with political leaders, media, corporations and national, regional and local associations, position papers on family policy and other issues.

(6) Posters featuring the IYF logo and another commemorating a special issue of IYF stamps by Canada Post are among the various awareness-raising tools being used to bring attention to the Year in Canada. The International Year of the Family was officially launched at a conference on Employee and Family Assistance Programmes in November 1993 in Vancouver.

(7) The Canada Committee is planning a major international meeting of IYF leaders from around the world to be held in Montreal, in October 1994, in anticipation of the World Conference on Families to be held in the General Assembly of the United Nations.

CAPE VERDE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Dr. José António M. dos Reis
Secrétaire d'Etat à la Jeunesse
et à la Promotion Sociale
President, la Commission pour
l'Année Internationale de la Famille
C.P. 453
Praia

FOCAL POINT

Dr. Frutuoso de Carvalho
Secretaria de Estado da Juventude
e Promoçao Social
C.P. 453
Praia

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government has indicated its desire to use the International Year of the Family to strengthen efforts to address pressing issues in meeting the basic needs of families in such areas as housing, nutrition, health, education, employment and poverty.

The Government has indicated its commitment to recognition of families as an integral element of development strategy and problem-solving within the country.

To undertake preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family, including development and implementation of a programme of activities, the Prime Minister constituted a National Commission for the IYF. Initial activities include distribution of promotional materials and awareness-raising on the International Year of the Family.

CHAD

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The priorities of a National Programme for the International Year of the Family include:

(i) Problems concerning one-parent families, taking into account the socio-economic role of women;
(ii) Problems concerning structural adjustment and its effects on families;
(iii) Implementation of extensive vaccination programmes as well as Mother and Child Health (SMI), without discrimination;
(iv) Problems concerning the lack of information and education on family welfare at national levels;
(v) Problems concerning the lack of socio-medical facilities for promoting and protecting families, in order to reduce mother and child mortality;
(vi) Problems of soil aridity and reduction of wood consumption in the Sahel regions;
(vii) Easing the burdens of women's daily tasks;
(viii) Rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The means of implementing the National Programme and its priorities will be mostly through the State via its ministries; the country's political movement - the National Union for Independence and Revolution (UNIR). There are already existing mechanisms to deal with the IYF, including: the UNIR and the Guiding Committee for the Chadian Women's National Week (SENAFET) under the Ministry of Social Affairs and Women's Promotion authority.

New mechanisms would promote better awareness and participation for the IYF; support data collecting; and raise financial and political support. A Family Code is under consideration and the Government has indicated interest in international cooperation in its elaboration.

CHILE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

H.E.Mrs Maria Soledad Alver Valenzuela
Minister in Charge
Servicio Nacional de la Mujer(SERNAM)
Teatinos 351, Buro 1002
Santiago

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Gerardo Gonzalez Erba
Executive Director
Fundación de la Familia
Amapolas 3683
Santiago

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

By Decree No. 11, published on 30 January 1992 in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Chile, the National Women's Service (SERNAM) was designated as the national co-ordinating body for the International Year of the Family.

As stipulated by the Decree, the National Women's Service will co-ordinate the participation of the various Government organizations and promote the involvement of interested non-governmental organizations, private institutions, individuals and corporations.

The IYF preparations have been incorporated as a priority in the 1992/1993 SERNAM programme. For these preparatory actions, the President of the Republic established a national Commission for the Family, whose objectives are: (i) to prepare an extensive diagnosis of the family in Chile; (ii) to suggest general policies for protecting and developing the family; and (iii) to direct this preparatory process in the different Chilean communities.

The Commission's Report will serve as a basis for the Government of Chile's National Plan of Action to benefit Chilean families.

The following preparatory activities have been carried out:

(1) Awareness campaigns, initiated in November 1992, have been continued and 11 seminars on "The Real State of the Family in the Region" have been held. The main objectives were to:

   (i) Raise awareness in the communities concerning the proclamation of the IYF, 1994;

(ii) Compile information, studies and proposals beneficial to families; and
(iii) Exchange experiences with the Government, private bodies and specialists.

(2) A study entitled "Characteristics and Analysis of Chilean Families" has been prepared, based on the latest Population and Housing Census.

Plans of Action for 1994

The following events have been planned:

(1) The Second Latin American Conference on the Family, 12-14 January 1994, organized by the Universidad Católica de Valparaíso and sponsored by the Servicio Nacional de la Mujer (SERNAM) as IYF co-ordinator, together with other national institutions.

(2) Issuing of a commemorative postal stamp for the IYF, designed by a famous Chilean artist, January 1994.

(3) A seminar entitled "Women, Family and Social Policies", an interdisciplinary meeting with public and private organs of the Metropolitan region to debate methods to strengthen Chilean families, organized by SERNAM (January 1994).

(4) Implementation of an inter-sectoral co-ordinating strategy, with emphasis on equality of opportunities for men and women.

(5) Compilation and promotion of diagnostic studies and evaluation of innovative experiences relating to the family, as a basis for effective policies.

Three projects and additional studies have been sent to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the IYF. These are:

(i) An intensive study of the parenting function in three types of family and their effect on the dynamics of the family;
(ii) The psychological/social effect on men and the family of incorporating women into the labour market; and
(iii) A statistical report on Chilean families.

(6) To promote and/or facilitate studies and law projects in such areas as:

(i) Regulation of patrimonial relationships in cohabitation;
(ii) Divorce;
(iii) Tribunals for the family;
(iv) Legal equality for all children without regard to their affiliation.

CHINA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Mme Huang Qizao Chairperson Co-ordinating Committee of the State Council and Vice-Chairperson of All-China Women's Federation 50 Deng Shikou Beijing 100 730	International Liaison Department All-China Women's Federation 50 Deng Shikou Beijing 100 730

NATIONAL ACTION

On 26 February 1993, a Co-ordinating Committee for the International Year of the Family (IYF) was officially set up, with the Vice-Chairperson of Women's and Children Affairs as its Chairperson. The All-China Women's Federation (ACWF) is a principal member of the China Co-ordinating Committee for the IYF.

The ACWF aims to mobilize women to promote, among other objectives, family related activities and to pursue family related policies, as well as to support women's rights and to work for equality between men and women.

The Chinese Government has placed priority on promoting good marriage and family and equal rights between men and women. Many women have increased their role in society, not only within the family, but also in rural activities and in private businesses.

The Marriage Law, drawn up in 1950, was the first major law passed by modern China. An amendment to this Law, in 1980, introduced family planning, and abolished the remnants of feudal or patriarchal marriage customs. Freedom of divorce is an important component of freedom of marriage and China's divorce rate has gone up since the enactment of the new marriage law. Despite this, the Government has reported that China remains one of the countries with the most stable marriages.

China hosted the United Nations Asia and the Pacific Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family in May 1993.

COLOMBIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Consejeria Presidencial para la Juventud la Mujer y la Familia Calle 7, No. 6-54, Zona A, Piso 30 Bogota	Mrs. Ginger Marino de Nule Consejeria Presidencial para la Juventud la Mujer y la Familia Calle 7, No. 6-54, Zona A, Piso 30 Bogota

NATIONAL ACTION

The Council for Youth, Women and the Family has been established within the Presidency of the Republic of Colombia. The Council acts as an advisory body to the President on the formulation and evaluation of national policies regarding the promotion of youth, women and the family. It supervises the implementation of such policies and co-ordinates their implementation.

Preparations for the IYF are being undertaken against the backdrop of profound changes in recent years in Colombia. The structure of the State, the legal order, and the role played by the media have been the subject of significant changes. Culturally, Colombia is a rich mosaic with various forms of family. Apart from the differences between the urban and the rural family, there are ethnic differences, socio-economic differences and those of regional culture. Recent studies also note generalized changing trends in marriage patterns, such as sharp increases in the number of unions outside wedlock, and a decrease in the age differential between marriage partners. Many of the most profound changes in family relationships are attributable to the modern roles of women, who are now undertaking tasks in all areas of society.

Notwithstanding these changes, in Colombia, the family continues to be the basic safety net, a real informal social security structure for family members in periods of crisis, during times of unemployment, and in states of inactivity. The International Year of the Family will strengthen governmental efforts in these and other areas. In this context, the State's role has been recognized to: protect family rights and the respect for cultural differences; support the family's strengths; create conditions that enable it to fulfil its functions and mechanisms to cope with its problems.

To shoulder this commitment, the Colombian State has created the National Family Welfare System, co-ordinated by the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, and the President's Council for Youth, Women's and Family Affairs, which focuses on family problems through a population orientation, stressing the particular needs of family members with a view to seeking solutions to tensions between the needs of the family as a group and those of individual development.

Work has been progressing on long-term programmes, such as community welfare homes and children's homes, in the context of which the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare has made great efforts to focus on the family as an essential component of the programme.

The Colombian Government is trying to provide an infrastructure to facilitate the union of parents with their children, which would stress the significance of close ties, emphasizing the importance of early childhood. In this context, Colombia's Juvenile Code is a compilation of child protection regulations.

Work recently began on a programme of family commissariats to help solve family conflicts and domestic violence through efforts at conciliation, comprehensive care, and refinement of judicial procedures. Throughout Colombia, regional committees have been set up for the celebration of the International Year of the Family.

The Government has initiated a process of co-ordination with the non-governmental bodies that offer family-oriented programmes.

Colombia hosted the United Nations Latin American and Caribbean Regional Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family, from 9 to 14 August 1993.

COMOROS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

Priority issues identified for the International Year of the Family in Comoros include those related to extreme poverty and pressing, interconnected problems in socio-economic development.

Great economic difficulties in the Comoros have created enormous problems for the family. The economic prospects for the family in the Comoros are distinguished, in particular, by: a saturated agricultural sector (85 per cent of the population are dependent on this sector for their livelihood); an embryonic industrial sector; and a very meager tertiary sector. Many economic gains have been offset by rapid population growth.

Concerned with the economic implications of rapid population increase, the Comorian Government has organized massive public campaigns on the effects of a runaway population growth, particularly regarding the costs of health care and school education, employment and the family budget.

The conclusions reached at all national seminars on family planning highlight the need to draw up and bring into effect a Family Code. It is argued that legislative provisions concerning marriage and divorce would make couples more aware of their responsibilities for bringing up children, and would oblige couples to plan their families in relation to their income.

The President of the Republic of the Comoros is resolved to ensuring equal opportunities for men and women in order to guarantee social harmony and development. This has been expressed in practical terms by establishing an Office of the High Commissioner for Social Affairs and the appointment of a women at the head of this important institution.

The Office of the High Commissioner for the Advancement of Women and Social Welfare has set itself the following targets:

(i) To support all the national associations concerned with women, families and children by informing them of their rights and civic duties;

(ii) To ensure the implementation of the National Action Plan for Children;

(iii) To maintain the machinery for drafting a Family Code;

(iv) To ensure that the State adopts policies designed to safeguard the order and freedom from anxiety by affording families moral, material and financial assistance;

(v) To help Comorian women meet their aspirations in objectives that are clearly defined in the light of national development policies; and

(vi) To ensure that the country signs all international conventions aimed at promoting the development and cause of women and families, the protection of children and the most vulnerable social groups.

CONGO

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
	Ministère de la Santé et des Affaires Sociales Brazzaville

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government has indicated that its Ministry of Science and Technology is undertaking several research projects related to the situation of families in the Congo and the ways and means by which they can benefit from advances in science and technology. The Ministry is working on a plan to integrate these IYF concerns into the national policy-making process of the Congo.

COSTA RICA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
First Lady of Costa Rica Head of National Co-ordinating Committee of Costa Rica for the IYF Ministerio de la Presidencia San José	Presidential Office's Chief of Staff Ministerio de la Presidencia Apartado Postal 520 - Zapote San José

NATIONAL ACTION

By a special decree, the President of Costa Rica has launched national preparations for the International Year of the Family and has established a National Co-ordinating Committee headed by the First Lady, who subsequently initiated numerous activities to promote the Year in Costa Rica throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Among those, and in particular, the First Lady of Costa Rica convened a major gathering of First Ladies in November 1993 at San José, Costa Rica, to launch the International Year of the Family. That meeting resulted in an international proclamation in support of the Year.

Programmes and events for the IYF

With a view to formulating proposals in connection with the observance of the IYF, the Technical Sub-committee of the National Coordinating Committee elaborated a scheme of work encompassing three objectives:

(1) Preparation of an inventory of public and private national institutions providing family care programmes, involving: a register of institutions that offer support to families; selection criteria for the allocation of priority to those programmes that could be converted into key programmes to be given prominence in the observance of the IYF; a review of family-related policies and strategies development in Costa Rica; and coordination of the findings of research carried out on the family.

(2) Establishment of linking mechanisms between the Technical Sub-committee and other national and international bodies involved with the IYF.

(3) Organization of an in-depth theoretical and methodological survey on the topic of the family in Costa Rica, including arrangements for a parallel study to be conducted by an interdisciplinary team comprising professional staff at the University of Costa Rica, in the areas of psychology, social work, education, counselling, nursing and the law.

Proposed activities

The following general objectives for the IYF in Costa Rica are proposed:

(1) To highlight the importance of the family as the "basic unit of society", including: developing a better understanding of the family and its functions; promoting awareness of the fact that economic, social and demographic processes affect the family as a group as well as each of its individual members; focusing attention on the rights and responsibilities of the various members of the family group.

(2) To strengthen and coordinate programmes of national institutions relating to the family.

(3) To support and encourage the efforts of governmental and non-governmental institutions to develop specific family programmes in which: substitutes are not provided for the functions that families should discharge; the existence of different family types and structures is taken into account; families' self-reliance is encouraged; the family is viewed as a dynamic entity; emphasis is given to the promotion and strengthening of families as agents of development and constructive change.

(4) To foster the development of research projects that will provide information and supply answers to questions concerning the existence of policies dealing with the family.

(5) To develop national strategies, with a view to the establishment of relevant and appropriate policies designed to strengthen the family as a unit capable of developing intra-familial support strategies; as an agent for the protection of human values, cultural identity and historical continuity, and as a medium for shaping new values and behaviour consistent with the rights of individual family members.

(6) Strengthening institutional capabilities, with a view to: making governmental and non-governmental organizations aware that their decisions and activities will usually have an effect on the way in which families are formed; improving the formulation and implementation of "family-sensitive" policies, and devising appropriate means to deal with a range of specific problems relating to the family as a unit.

(7) Identifying and defining strategies and policies that will achieve a balance between how families can meet their own needs and what can be expected of the public services.

(8) To intensify efforts at inter-agency coordination, with a view to ensuring appropriate family life education.

(9) To develop strategies for continuous assessment that will provide feedback on the activities undertaken and programmes promoted.

The proposed specific plan of action is:

(1) Coordination of a public awareness campaign via the mass media, highlighting the importance of the family as the basic unit of society, including: establishment of coordination mechanisms with government institutions and private organizations, with the aim of including family issues in the annual agenda of activities for 1994; support from the radio broadcasting network at the national level in the dissemination of educational programmes in outlying communities; organization of debates, forums and talks on family topics; support from the private sector in the organization of painting, drama and music competitions.

(2) Mounting of publicity campaigns to promote specific selected programmes, namely: through the National Child Welfare Service, comprehensive assistance programme for child workers, including itinerant vendors; temporary hostels for adolescent girls; preventive educational programmes on domestic violence; comprehensive assistance programmes for child workers in the city of Liberia; shelter programmes for children at risk; foster home promotion programmes, through the State Social Security Fund comprehensive youth care programme; reproductive health programmes; programmes to promote the national children's hospital, the national geriatric hospital, and the national psychiatric hospital; post-graduate family medicine programmes; women, health and development programme; the day nursery programme, through the Ministry of Labour; the Community Homes and Micro-enterprise programme through the Joint Institute for Social Aid (IMAS); the programme for the care and rehabilitation of children and young persons with disabilities, through the National Rehabilitation Board; care programmes for the elderly, through AGECO and FORO; projects in extension education, university community work and interdisciplinary family care through the Department of Social Action, University of Costa Rica; as well as the work of the Women and Family Centre and the Family Guidance Centre.

(3) With the aim of promoting and conducting research on the family to provide specific information on family types in Costa Rica and analyses of the policies that have been formulated in this connection, the following projects have been proposed: a research study on the family characteristics of Costa Rican households; a qualitative analysis of family policies in Costa Rica; a theoretical and methodological study to assist in shedding light on the concept of the "family", with a view to supporting the IYF activities by the interdisciplinary team of family researchers at the University of Costa Rica.

(4) A national congress on the family has been proposed to assist in the formulation of guideline strategies for the establishment of family policies that are relevant and appropriate to the actual national situation.

(5) To encourage coordinated efforts to promote family life education, it has been proposed that an ad hoc expert committee design a programme of specific family life activities, aimed at young people, children and families, with a view to the creation of favourable conditions for the equitable sharing of responsibilities among family members.

(6) In addition, it has been proposed that the National IYF Coordinating Committee should become a permanent body for evaluation purposes and develop strategies for monitoring the various activities by identifying short-, medium-, and long-term targets and establishing indicators that will make it possible to assess how effectively and how far the activities have been carried out, in coordination with the institutions responsible for their implementation.

CÔTE D'IVOIRE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Comité d'Organisation de l'Année Internationale de la Famille Ministère de la Santé et de la Protection Sociale B.P. V124 Abidjan	Hon. Mr. Alain Ekra, Le Ministre Ministère de la Santé et de la Protection Sociale B.P. V124 Abidjan

NATIONAL ACTION

A National Committee has been set up under the presidency of His Excellency Mr. Alain Ekra, Minister of Health and Social Welfare. In terms of specific mechanisms, a permanent secretariat, an organizing committee and various working groups (commissions) have been established.

The role of the permanent secretariat is being performed by the Department for Social Development, which is a technical department of the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. In addition to supporting the work of the working groups, the secretariat is mobilizing regional offices of the Ministry to prepare and undertake observances at the local level. The Organizing Committee is comprised of representatives from various ministries, a number of non-governmental organizations and religious bodies, as well as several international organizations, and is chaired by the Minister of Health and Social Welfare.

At its first meeting, in February 1992, the Organizing Committee formed seven Working Groups, which were to meet with the Committee twice yearly to report on their work. Members of the Working Groups have been chosen according to the qualifications required for fulfilling their specific tasks and include doctors, mid-wives, nurses, psychologists, social workers, lawyers, teachers, and other professionals.

The Working Groups (Commissions) are as follows:

1. Health and Social Welfare: to study the situation of families concerning health and social conditions, including the question of contraception.

2. Rights and Duties of Families: to make a critical analysis of the legal articles concerning the family in the Côte d'Ivoire. Some of these texts were passed nearly thirty years ago and take into account only the nuclear

family, whereas the traditional African society has other traditions and cultural values. The Working Group is to make proposals to the Government concerning a possible re-adjustment of the regulations which govern the life of today's family in Côte d'Ivoire.

3. Family Concepts and Evolution in Côte d'Ivoire: to examine the different family types in Côte d'Ivoire and the evolution of their structure.

4. Family and Education: to study education as a factor of social integration and the family fulfilling an essential function in passing on cultural values.

5. Elderly People: to examine the place and the role of elderly persons in the country's traditional society, as well as the place which they tend to occupy today and which should be their due. It is envisaged that a geriatric service may be set up in the main hospitals of the country.

6. The Family and the Environment: to examine the living conditions in both the urban and the rural environment of the country.

7. The Family and its Economic Situation: to study the socio-economic problems of families, including schooling and health costs for children.

On the basis of reports prepared by each of the seven commissions, the Government will be undertaking specific measures in observance of the Year within the various areas of concern. Mobilization of these actions is proposed to occur through the assistance of United Nations agencies represented in Côte d'Ivoire at a seminar on the International Year of the Family.

Apart from the official opening ceremony, the programme for the IYF consists of awareness-raising campaigns for the public and the authorities, involving such activities as round-table meetings, conferences followed by debates, articles in the press, television and radio programmes, posters as well as other means.

CUBA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Sra. Vilma Espín Guillois
Comité Nacional de coordinacion de
Cuba para la Celebración del Año
Internacional de la Familia
Presidenta Federación de Mujeres Cubanas
Dirección Nacional
Paseo No. 260 Esq. A 13
Vedado, La Habana

FOCAL POINT

Dirección de Organismos Internacionales
del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores
Havana

NATIONAL ACTION

On 23 December 1991, the Government established a National Co-ordinating Committee, made up of representatives of ministries, as well as national bodies dealing with science, sport, physical education and recreation, social welfare and sex education. The Ministry of Foreign Relations acts as the secretariat or focal point of the Committee. During the period leading up to the International Year of the Family, a number of events have been organized by various ministries and institutes in Cuba to celebrate the IYF.

Programmes and Events for the IYF

(1) The 4th Regional Meeting on Social Work in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean took place from 7 to 10 May 1993, sponsored by the Latin American Federation of Social Workers and the Federation of Cuban Women.

(2) In April 1992, the Union of Young Communists, in its 4th Congress, had two main themes: "The Young Wife" and "Family and Society". Problems that arise in the family and social environment were analyzed and possible solutions proposed.

(3) A Latin American meeting on Education for Health took place from 28 September to 1 October 1993, sponsored by the Education Department for Health, Ministry of Public Health (MINSAP). The main subject was the mother and the family.

(4) In October 1993, Cuba's Centre for Psychological and Sociological Research, together with UNICEF, sponsored the First Latin American Meeting on the Family.

(5) The First International Conference on Protection of the Family and Minors was organized in November 1993.

(6) An international conference on notarial and civil law, sponsored by the Ministry of Justice, is to take place from 23 to 25 March 1994. It will discuss legislative solutions dealing with family affairs with regard to the law; and legal protection of the family in civil law.

(7) In June 1994, the Federation of Cuban Women and the Association of Cuban Educationalists will host an International Meeting on "Community Work and the Outlook for the Family".

(8) Also in June 1994, the University of La Habana has planned an international workshop, "Socio-economic conditions and child development".

With regard to publications, the following have been issued or are being prepared:

(1) The Academy of Sciences in Cuba is working with UNICEF on a paper summarizing the main results of research, "Measures for improving family life in Cuba". Also planned is a book, "The Contemporary Cuban Family", to be published in 1994.
(2) The Ministry of Education has edited the Cuban version of the book, "For Life" (Para la Vida), which discusses health, hygiene, sex and AIDS.
(3) The National Centre for Sex Education is working on "From the ovule to the first steps" (Desde el óvulo a los primeros pasos) by Dr. Heinrich Brücknery and, by the same author, "Mum, Dad, and I" (Mamá, papá y yo) and "You are already thinking about love" (Piensas ya en el amor), with the aim of re-editing them for distribution.
(4) Since 1992, the newspaper "Rebellious Youth" has published articles on strengthening the family.

In addition, preparations have been advanced on research, health, education, legislation and social welfare. These include the following:

With regard to health, a comprehensive programme has been launched which includes campaigns against smoking and alcohol, and promoting family planning services. Together with UNICEF, a hospital project, called "Friend of the Child and Mother" (Amigo del Niño y de la Madre), has been developed. There are already three such hospitals in Cuba.

In education, the Federation of Cuban Women continues to expand the Houses of Rehabilitation for the Mother and Family. There are already 148 of these, and it is hoped that by 1994 they will be functioning in 169 Cuban municipalities. The Houses offer advice on various subjects and short courses on such matters as feeding the family and making the most of local resources.

A programme of sex education and aid for parents with physically handicapped children is in force. From the academic year 1992-93 onwards, the Ministry of Education has brought together, within the IYF, all activities in schools for family education to create the basis of a movement which will culminate in 1994 in local and national activities.

The Faculty of Psychology of La Habana University, in collaboration with the FMC (Federación de Mujeres Cubanas) and the National Centre for Sex Education (CENESEX), set up an Information Centre for the Family and Couples.

In legislation, steps have been taken to make legal procedures more flexible with regard to legislation on the family.

In 1994, a series of conferences on the legal protection of the family and minors will be held. This project has been developed by the office of Cuba's Attorney-General, together with the National Union of Jurists of Cuba and the Cuban Society of Civil and Family Law.

At the national level, selected activities have centered on solving problems relating to free time and recreation; preventing alcoholism; attending to minors with behavioural problems and to their families; caring for the elderly; rehabilitating prisoners and ex-prisoners.

With regard to sports and recreation, a national level programme is being developed to offer more physical activities to all communities and to improve treatment and rehabilitation programme for those with health problems.

Also, to celebrate the IYF, a Festival has been organized under the motto: "For World Without End, We Children Want Peace", as well as a "Family Recreation Programme", which includes numerous entertainment events.

CYPRUS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
Nicosia

FOCAL POINT

Mr. George Anastassiades
Permanent Secretary
Chairman
National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance
Nicosia

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

On 24 January 1991, the Council of Ministers appointed a Ministerial Committee comprising the Ministers of Labour and Social Insurance, Finance, Education and Health and Justice to follow up the work connected with the International Year of the Family. Subsequently, the Ministerial Committee established a National Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.

The National Committee is made up of more than fifty members representing ministries, Government departments and services, as well as voluntary organizations, local authorities, trade unions and the media.

The National Committee has elected an Executive Secretariat and set up five sub-committees dealing with: (i) research and developmental social policy; (ii) education; (iii) health; (iv) legislation; and (v) support for and strengthening the family.

The sub-committees have prepared their plans of action and budget proposals which have been approved by the National Committee. District Committees have been set up, with a view to decentralizing activities for the IYF.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Activities in Cyprus related to the International Year of the Family include the following main events:

(1) Information for the public about the IYF through mass media - TV, radio, and the press;

(2) Panel Discussion: "Support of Learning Through the Functions of a Healthy Family";

(3) Seminar: "Education in Family Life through Formal and Informal Education";

(4) Conference: "Ways of Communication and Co-operation of the Family with Formal Education for the Positive Social Change";

(5) Information for the public about the IYF and activities/events of the Cyprus National Committees and District Committees are being constantly disseminated through the mass media.

CZECH REPUBLIC

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Dr. Karel Kos, President of the	Dr. Karel Kos
National Coordination Board of the IYF	Special Advisor to the Minister
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Na pořičním právu 1	Na pořičním právu 1
Právu 1	Právu 1
128 00 Praha 2	128 00 Praha 2

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The National Co-ordination Board for the International Year of the Family was established on 17 May 1993 at the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, which assumed the national responsibility for IYF preparations in the Czech Republic. The Board's task is to initiate, support, co-ordinate, and evaluate the activities planned and conducted for the IYF at the national and local levels.

The Minister of Labour and Social Affairs nominated representatives of various ministries, Parliament, and professional organizations, interested in family issues, to join the National Co-ordination Board. The Secretariat of the National Co-ordination Board evaluates the initiatives submitted by the Board and ensures that the tasks agreed upon are carried out; it submits ideas for themes of the Board's deliberations.

In preparing for the IYF, the main aim of the Czech Republic is to make all respective activities useful for the families themselves, either directly (for families at the local or regional levels) or through mediation at the national level, aimed at the welfare of families in general.

Thus, the basic prerequisite for the IYF preparations is co-operation between the two main levels of activities - national and local. For this purpose, the Board proposes to use communication channels of organizations that already deal with family issues, such as local authorities in villages and towns, schools and their facilities; professional institutions and organizations; family guidance centres, etc., which can all be further supplemented by non-governmental organizations and other legal bodies.

The Board has proceeded from an assumption that at least one centre should be established in each district, through a family guidance centre, or some other well-functioning organizations, or in association with local self-government authorities and their professionals and experts.

The Board has devised a time-table for its major activities:

Stage I: Initiation and promotion of activities organized on the occasion of the IYF - distribution of information, publicity, and proposed themes (July to October 1993).

Stage II: Programme formulation, registration of activities conducted for the IYF - and prepared at the national level as well as those initiated in regions and municipalities (October to December 1993).

Stage III: Co-ordination of activities throughout 1994.

Stage IV: Action evaluation - publications etc., from the end of 1994 to the beginning of 1995.

Programmes and events for the IYF

In its IYF preparations, the National Co-ordination Board, has recommended that all programme organizers incorporate, in their activities, elements which would be useful for and of interest to families as well as for organizations and legal bodies interested in family issues.

A programme of action at the national level includes:

1. Activities initiated and co-ordinated directly by the National Co-ordination Board, and its immediate associations, such as:

(i) Activities to revise existing legislation on the family;

(ii) Research on problems of contemporary families;

(iii) Publications on families, parents, children;

(iv) Health-care projects;

(v) Conferences and seminars of experts, with international participation;

(vi) Preparing activities for the Day of Families;

(vii) Issuing a commemorative postage stamp, a poster, and other promotional events.

CZECH REPUBLIC - 3

2. Activities initiated and carried out by local or regional organizations and legal bodies, such as:

(i) Public (week-end) actions for families with cultural, education, sports, or artistic themes, etc.;

(ii) Extension of family guidance activities;

(iii) Actions for children, in co-operation with schools or local authorities;

(iv) Health-care programmes for parents and children; and

(v) Educational programmes for experts and professionals.

3. Co-operation with the mass media - press, radio, and TV.

DENMARK

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Ministry of Social Affairs Slotsholmsgade 6 DK-1216 Copenhagen K	Mr. Ole Jorgensen Deputy Head of Division International Division Ministry of Social Affairs Slotsholmsgade 6 DK-1216 Copenhagen K

NATIONAL ACTION

In Denmark, major IYF emphasis will be on the participation of private and voluntary organizations and associations and on the creation of widespread public debates on the family and its condition in the 1990s.

The Ministry of Social Affairs has issued information on the IYF to the relevant interest groups, the press, public authorities, etc. Three basic areas are to be covered:

(1) Role of private and voluntary organizations: In 1993, the Ministry of Social Affairs contacted private and voluntary organizations and associations to inform them about the IYF and to encourage their participation. It has been felt to be important that the IYF not merely become a central Government and public matter, but that initiatives in connection with the daily life of the family should be implemented locally.

To encourage the commitment and participation of private and voluntary organizations, the Ministry of Social Affairs has earmarked special funds for the IYF. Private and voluntary organizations may apply for financial support for events which are to take place during the IYF, with a view to observing the Year, such as local events, preparation of information and material for debate.

(2) Public debate on the family: Importance is attached to promoting a public debate on the family that will include the points of view, wishes and needs of different families.

In 1993, the Ministry of Social Affairs asked the media to observe the IYF by public debates and/or articles about the family in today's Denmark.

(3) Government's family policy initiatives: The Government has identified as a policy objective to combine the parent role with active participation in the labour market. It is, therefore, working on a number of initiatives in this area.

Also, research projects on the situation and condition of the family have been initiated, including one on "Parenthood in the 1990s".

The Government's Inter-Ministerial Committee on Children will, in co-operation with selected private enterprises, implement a development project on the connection between family life and working life. This Committee is also working on a project on excluded children and young people at risk.

ECUADOR

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

First Lady of Ecuador
Comité Tecnico Interinstitucional
Año Internacional de la Familia
Quito

FOCAL POINT

Ministerio de Bienestar Social
Quito

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Ecuador designated the Ministry of Social Welfare as the national co-ordinating body to be responsible for planning and co-ordinating the activities towards and during the International Year of the Family. Subsequently, an Inter-Institutional Committee was formed to design, execute and evaluate actions related to the IYF. This Committee, chaired by the First Lady, is composed of members from the Ministries of: Labour and Human Resources; Public Health; Education and Culture; Information and Tourism; Urban Development and Housing, as well as the National Institute of the Child and Family (INNFA), the Episcopal Conference, and the United Nations Children's Fund. Representatives from non-governmental organizations have also been included.

Issues and problems to be considered: The problems that have negative effects on families, both in urban and in rural environments, include lack of real alternatives for promoting employment, insufficient care in health and nutrition, and lack of options in the educational field. In health, the principal infectious diseases are directly related to the critical poverty margin, deficient health conditions, insufficient coverage of natal and parental care, and other issues.

In preparing for observance of the Year, consideration has been given to the "Family Code" as a means for defining a set of norms bringing together the duties and rights of the family, and the social role that it plays in the country's development. Though no national body exists that could co-ordinate specific activities relating to family problems, the INNFA (Instituto Nacional del Niño y la Familia) maintains a set of programmes for community-based activity which stress actions that support family groups living in extreme poverty.

Financial support will be sought for:

- Financing of promotional and dissemination campaigns;
- Forming specialized technical teams;
- Installing local and regional offices;
- Mobilizing families around the topics stemming from the IYF; and
- Technical training, international seminars and courses.

Government information media will be used to enhance public awareness of the Year and its objectives by:

- Mass publicity campaigns through television and radio;
- Use of Government information space;
- Discussions between specialists on the subjects of the family;
- Reflecting opinion in the local and regional press; and
- Seeking economic sponsorship from national and international firms.

The education system and informal education networks will also be used for direct dissemination of the aims of the IYF for the benefit of all families.

EGYPT

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Inter-Ministerial Committee on the International Year of the Family Cairo	

NATIONAL ACTION

In preparing for the International Year of the Family, measures have been taken in Egypt both at the national and international levels.

1. At the international level: Egyptian delegates representing government and non-governmental organizations have participated in several family-oriented international conferences: (i) the World Conference on the Social Rights of Families, held in Nicosia, Cyprus in September 1991, which discussed the social rights of the child and of parents; (ii) the International Conference on the Legal Rights of Families, held in Warsaw, Poland, in March 1992; (iii) a conference on Family and Health, held in Greece in 1993; and (iv) a conference on the Cultural Rights of the Family, hosted by Egypt in co-operation with the Paris-based International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO), held in Cairo in September 1993.

2. At the national level: Studies have been prepared on the rights of the Egyptian family from the social, legal, cultural and economic points of view, with the participation of experts and university professors specialized in this field. The League of Arab States was provided with copies of these studies for inclusion in a joint Arab report to be presented to the Arab Conference on the Family (1993).

A Committee has been established, comprising representatives of the ministries concerned so that action on the IYF will proceed within a well informed overall national plan.

All provinces in the country, through their directorates of social affairs, participate in formulating a programme for IYF observances at the local level, taking into account local conditions and needs. A project, entitled "Towards a better life for Egyptian girls", is planned. It will comprise a study of the needs of girls and young women, the problems they face, and the programmes available for them. High priority is being given to this critical phase of life when the need is great to provide care for women and develop their abilities as vital agents of societal development. The aim of the study was to mobilize resources to develop the services needed by this age group. An action plan was developed in June 1993 to carry initiatives forward on girls in Egypt.

Attention is to be focused on the family, particularly in rural areas, through implementation of the Rural Children Project, to help small local communities presently deprived of welfare services. This includes creating an environment suitable for the welfare and development of pre-school children, such as providing programmes to raise the awareness of members of rural families.

Economic and social development of the family will be promoted through support for the Productive Families Scheme, designed to (i) develop family resources and to increase family income; (ii) solve problems of unemployment affecting family members; and (iii) develop skills and experience through vocational training.

The extension of social security coverage to all family members to cover disability, sickness, and old age is being promoted, as is the extension of health insurance coverage to students at various levels. More advanced programmes to cope with population problems, and the uneven population distribution are also being prepared, including: (i) support and expansion of family planning centres, particularly in villages and rural areas, through awareness programmes; (ii) provision of the necessary medical treatment and; (iii) provision of pre- and post-natal maternity care.

National actions for the Year include measures to provide services for the welfare of the following types of families: families that support disabled persons; those whose breadwinner is imprisoned; those that support elderly persons; and those where the breadwinner has emigrated, leaving them without financial support.

A national plan is being developed to protect the family from the dangers of violence, terrorism and extremism; to provide children with legal protection against being employed for heavy labour; and to protect families against the dangers of environmental pollution.

Social institutions, such as family guidance and advisory services, are to be developed and supported with respect to: (i) Social issues - divorce, maintenance, guardianship etc.; (ii) Psychological issues - personality disturbances, drug addiction, behavioural problems; etc.; and (iii) Economic issues - inadequacy of family income, excessive family expenditure, family debts etc.

Apart from governmental organizations and ministries, private and voluntary bodies and NGOs will participate in all the foregoing activities.

EL SALVADOR

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

First Lady of the Republic and
National Family Secretary
Secretaría Nacional de la Familia
Case Presidencial
Barrio San Jacinto
San Salvador

FOCAL POINT

Secretaría Nacional de la Familia
Casa Presidencial
Barrio San Jacinto
San Salvador

Att. Lic. Victor Manuel Lagos Pizzati

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In its Economic and Social Development Plan for 1989-1994, the Government of El Salvador has envisaged a social strategy aimed at eliminating extreme poverty and incorporating two main, action-oriented phases - the *first*, to formulate and execute compensatory policies, programmes and projects to cushion the negative effects of economic stabilization and reorientation programmes on lower-income families; and, *second*, to prepare sectoral social plans to establish the foundations for sustained social development. For the first time in El Salvador, priority is being given to comprehensive family care.

Under the guidelines of the Development Plan, the Government is to play a key role in providing for the country's social needs. In the institutional arena, the National Office for the Family (SNF) was set up. SNF is directly subordinate to the Office of the President of the Republic and performs a liaison function between that Office and the public and private institutions concerned with family policy.

The El Salvadorian Government's aim in establishing a National Office of the Family was to enable it to work towards the well-being of the family by promoting, co-ordinating and assessing the participation of various sectors of the country in family care programmes by focusing its efforts on children, adolescents, women, and the elderly.

In terms of specific objectives, the Office of the President, through the SNF, has set itself a number of tasks, which include: promoting legislative changes to protect the family; co-ordinating and evaluating the work of institutions involved in programme of protection; encouraging family group activities; monitoring the rights of children so as to guarantee them their full development; proposing guidelines for adolescents, mainly in education, training and recreation; providing incentives for women to develop their capacities and potential to the fullest possible extent; and enhancing the image of the family through the media.

All the programmes of the National Office for the Family are carried out in close co-operation with civic organizations.

The Government has been engaged in extensive efforts to formulate a set of policies for the family with the objective of ensuring that, by 1994, Salvadorian society will be able to count on policy capable of ensuring improved family well-being. To this end, new national population and juvenile care policies have been drawn up and approved. In addition, proposals for a national plan for women and a policy of care for the elderly are currently under discussion.

Other programmes include support for family functions; family planning; a National Programme of Mother-Community Homes in various localities throughout El Salvador; programmes for preventing and/or solving family conflicts; Open Centres for "working street children" - which began as a pilot plan to provide food and health care for juveniles working in the streets; care for the elderly; and "Young Mother" programme, to provide care and advice for young mothers at a number of establishments operated by the Ministry of Public Health and Social Security.

Activities to be carried out for the IYF have been aimed at achieving the integration of the family. Since governmental and non-governmental organizations operate through the co-ordination of activities specific to their spheres of interest, the Salvadorian Government intends to unite the activities of all organizations so that most social sectors become involved in the joint overall effort.

A broadly based National Co-ordinating Committee with the participation of governmental and non-governmental institutions, is being chaired by the First Lady of the Republic and National Family Secretary. Additional sub-committees have been formed to bring together the private sector, NGOs, and the mass media. The Government has designated the National Office of the Family (SNF) to function as the National Co-ordinating centre; and, within the SNF a "focal point" has been designated to liaise with the United Nations IYF Co-ordinator.

The NCC is preparing an Official National IYF Calendar, which will include activities already carried out as well as those planned for inclusion in the 1994 programmes.

The following have been identified as priority areas for IYF activities in El Salvador:

(i) Research will be conducted on the status of the family in El Salvador, to update the current survey and identify priority areas for specific action while also formulating an implementation strategy for such measures as are required.

(ii) Family legislation, particularly the imminent approval, regulation and application of new legal provisions governing the family (Family Code).

(iii) Family policies, especially those concerning minors, women and the elderly are being drafted.

(iv) IYF observance, including training, publicity and promotion, particularly in all initiatives connected with the IYF and the priorities identified by the National Coordinating Committee.

Programmes and events for the IYF

For IYF observance the following activities have been planned:

(i) The official IYF launching, in December 1993, at an event presided over by the President of the Republic and the First Lady, with the participation of other public figures, NGOs, the media, and Salvadorian families;

(ii) Issuing commemorative IYF stamps and minting of commemorative IYF coins;

(iii) Printing of IYF posters with various motifs;

(iv) Publication of at least two 'supplements' on the subjects of the family and the IYF in leading Salvadorian periodicals;

(v) A mass-media family values campaign throughout the entire Year;

(vi) Adoption of the IYF slogan;

(vii) Formal enactment, by decree, of the observance of Family Day at the national level;

(viii) Opening discussions on family issues through holding workshops, organized for universities, trade associations, public agencies, national and local NGOs, and others.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government regards the family as the primary unit upon which society as a whole rests and, therefore, protection of the family is a policy to which the greatest importance is attached. The Government has created several institutions to promote family protection, such as the Ministry of Women's and Social Affairs, responsible for all matters related to women and the family. There has been an increase in activities for the protection of women, a trend that will be maintained in the International Year of the Family. A non-governmental organization, the Committee for the Support of Children in Equatorial Guinea, is also active in the field.

In the context of IYF preparations, Equatorial Guinea envisages the following activities:

The creation of a National Committee for the IYF under the auspices of the Ministry for Women's and Social Affairs, and strengthening existing programmes, such as:

(i) Intensive vaccination procedures;
(ii) Maternal and child health and family planning programmes; and
(iii) Programmes for protecting young children through a network of community nurseries.

The National Committee will organize:

(i) A comprehensive conference on the importance of the family in the society of Equatorial Guinea; and
(ii) Social, educational and cultural activities in maternity and children's centres to inform people of the place and role of the family in the nation's rapidly evolving society.

ESTONIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Social Affairs Office of Social Protection 29 Gonsiori Street Tallinn	Ms. Helle Niit Office of Social Protection Ministry of Social Affairs 29 Gonsiori Street Tallinn

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

A National Committee has been formed for the preparation of the International Year of the Family, headed by the Office of Social Protection. Its members include representatives from governmental, non-governmental and voluntary organizations concerned with family issues.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Activities planned for the IYF in Estonia include the following:

(i) Working out the basic approach to family policy under the changed economic and social circumstances in the country (changes in financing family allowances, benefits for parents with children, family law);
(ii) Establishment of a government institution related to families, women and children;
(iii) Publishing a series of reports on the situation of the Estonian family on the basis of various research projects;
(iv) Establishing a network of psychological services for families (counselling, hot lines, self-help programmes, conciliation services, etc.);
(v) Providing a special curriculum for training professional assistants;
(vi) Educating youth for family life, promoting cultural identity and feeling of continuity in families;
(vii) Creating an Information Centre of various services available for families all over Estonia;
(viii) Convening a conference on local and regional experience in dealing with family issues;
(ix) Promoting local groups in their activities regarding family issues;
(x) Issuing a commemorative postage stamp on the theme of the family;
(xi) Arranging public competitions (design of a poster, and a literary competition on topics connected with family); and
(xii) Reporting on IYF events in the media - the press, radio and television.

ESTONIA - 2

The National Coordinating Committee has undertaken numerous initiatives to support family services, including the development of an agreement with a government-managed fund-raising commission for the support of family projects. The Estonian Government has also entered into cooperative international arrangements on family related issues including, for example, consultations on new social policy legislation drafted in Estonia. At the invitation of the Estonian Government, planning meetings were conducted in Tallinn in October 1993, involving the United Nations Secretariat for the International Year of the Family and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health of Finland.

ETHIOPIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Addis Ababa	Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Addis Ababa

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

Priority issues to be considered by the Government in the context of IYF include economic and ecological problems and famine arising from recurrent drought and desertification; years of social disruption due to the long drawn-out civil war; a very high infant mortality rate; disintegration of family support systems, notably in urban areas; and problems of children, particularly those who are orphaned.

Since the end of the civil war in Ethiopia, Government programmes have concentrated on plans to alleviate the plight of families affected by the impact of conflict, drought and displacement. The current democratization process, the liberalization of the economy and its transition from being centrally planned to being a market-based system, and the decentralization of power, are all basic steps towards recovering the economy through a new economic policy which, in turn, has a direct impact in alleviating family-related problems.

Preparatory activity for the Year has taken place within the context of recent efforts to address family-related issues. This includes the new Labour Law Proclamation (No. 42/93) which:

(i) Prohibits the employment of women on all types of work that are harmful to their health;
(ii) Prohibits pregnant women working night shifts between 22.00 and 06.00 hours;
(iii) Ensures that pregnant women are entitled to paid leave medical check-ups;
(iv) Ensures that all pregnant women are entitled to 90 consecutive days of paid maternity leave; and
(v) Prohibits the employment of minors in any type of work which could endanger their health or life.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The following steps are being taken to improve family welfare:

(i) Education programmes concerning the family are provided throughout the country on such issues as child care, nutrition, household matters, etc.;
(ii) Some non-governmental organizations are doing their utmost to obtain financial and material assistance for children - orphans in particular - who are seriously deprived, so as to ensure that they do not stop their schooling and become exposed to problems, such as vagrancy and petty crime;
(iii) Through disaster relief programmes, the Relief and Rehabilitation Commission aids people affected by natural and man-made disasters;
(iv) The Ministry of Agriculture runs various programmes focused on the overall development of the family in rural areas;
(v) The Family Development Project (FADEP) runs programmes which address direct family needs; activities are carried out in various parts of the country and in Addis Ababa.

The following major activities have also been conducted in Ethiopia:

(1) Based on information from the IYF Secretariat, a resumé of the objectives, programmes and activities concerning the observance of the IYF was distributed to senior officials in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and the Council of Ministers.
(2) Contact was made with the Economic Commission for Africa, UNICEF and UNDP regarding how to work together for the national preparation for the IYF.
(3) A project proposal for financial and technical assistance to prepare and observe the IYF has been submitted to the Secretariat for the IYF and the UNDP, consisting of three components:

    (i) A review and critical analysis of the existing civil code and other laws concerning safeguarding the family;
    (ii) A sample survey on the impact of social and economic changes on families in Addis Ababa; and
    (iii) A national seminar to promote and increase the awareness of policy-makers and experts on the welfare and development of the family.

FINLAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ms. Riitta Viitala Assistant Director Department for Social and Health Services Ministry of Social Affairs and Health P.O. Box 267, 00171 Helsinki	Ms. Ritva Vuorento Senior Counsellor Ministry of Social Affairs and Health P.O. Box 267 00171 Helsinki

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

On 27 May 1992, the Government appointed a National Committee for the International Year of the Family and designated a focal point in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health. The National Committee consists of 17 members who represent various Government departments and non-governmental organizations. Included among the objectives of the Committee are:

1) To increase information about the significance, rights and responsibilities and forms of families;
2) To promote equality of men and women;
3) To support parenthood and parenting skills, notably in the interaction of fathers and children;
4) Building on international activities for other social groups, to achieve new decisions emphasizing men's role as fathers and significance of the family;
5) To achieve permanent social changes to benefit families;
6) To raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of families in regard to specific services;
7) Influence service system development to value families as co-operative partners;
8) Develop co-operation at all levels to promote family well-being;
9) Increase discussion on such values as equity, tolerance and solidarity;
10) Influence decision-making in society to account for the principles of sustainable development.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Finland's National Committee has adopted, as the national theme for the IYF, "Growing together - Family gives strength". The following three major sub-themes have been defined: (i) "The family as an emotional unit and an environment of growth"; (ii) "The family and welfare"; and (iii) "The family in a changing world".

The publications and other material of the National Committee, which will be distributed, include (i) a translation into Finnish of "1994 International Year of the Family: Building the smallest democracy at the heart of society"; (ii) Guidelines and Goals of Action; (iii) a poster on the Year of the Family; and (iv) a brochure on the National Committee.

IYF activities will mainly take place at the local level, in co-operation with local authorities and NGOs.

The national IYF launching event, on 10 January 1994, was planned to include a seminar and a reception by the Minister of Social Affairs and Health.

The National Committee, together with NGOs and others, is making arrangements for a National Day of the Family, on 15 May 1994, coinciding with the International Day of Families.

The National Committee is publishing a programme, including a list of the national and local events and campaigns to be arranged during the Year. This publication will also include information on new material, and on the need for information about the Year, and will be a joint release of information on the varied range of activities which are to take place during the IYF.

The first Calendar of Events for the IYF in Finland contains nearly two hundred different projects; most of which are national or regional in scope. A network of local and project contact persons has been established through which the National Co-ordinating Committee is providing information and promoting exchange. Among the many special initiatives are:

1) Seminars on such diverse themes as: family studies, power and responsibility in the family, rehabilitation of children, dysphasia, early intervention, developing family planning services, family business, children's experience of parental unemployment, innovative family training, home-making.

2) Regional meetings on the development of social policy are also planned as is a series of topical meetings on coping with crisis.

3) Hosting the 26th World Conference of the International Council of Social Welfare; "Global Welfare - 1994", in July, and other international meetings on such issues as "Ageing" and "Strength of the Family in the Early 2000s".

4) Numerous awareness-raising events and artistic presentations, including exhibitions, recreational events for families, concerts, and other undertakings, often based on specific themes.

5) Special days have been reserved for specific observances for mothers, children, parents of persons with disabilities, families. Various organizations have planned particular celebrations on various themes, or to coincide with international "days".

6) Major campaigns have also been undertaken on such issues as Father and Child; Helping Families to Cope (30 localities) and Smokeless Homes as well as significant measures on the issues of "The Family and Social Welfare", "The Family and Health", "The Family and Environment" and "The Family Reads Together".

7) An extensive research and publication programme has also been mounted, including work on divorce, family violence, special journal editions and articles, children and childhood, and ageing, among many other themes.

FRANCE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Comité de pilotage pour l'AIF
Sous la présidence de Mme Simone Veil
Ministre d'Etat
Ministre des Affaires sociales,
de la santé et de la ville
1, place de Fontenoy
F-75350 Paris 07 SP

FOCAL POINT

Mme Danièle Refuveille
Ministère des Affaires sociales,
de la santé et de la ville
Division des Relations Internationales
1, place de Fontenoy
F-75350 Paris 07 SP

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

A Steering Committee has been set up under the authority of the Secretary of State, Minister for Social Affairs, Health and Urban Development (Ministère d'Etat, Ministre des Affaires sociales, de la santé et de la ville). The Committee comprises representatives from all ministries involved in the International Year of the Family as well as from private organizations and national associations. Its mandate is to prepare the observance of the IYF and to collect information on actions implemented at the local and national levels. In every *département* of France, a local committee has been set up to arouse public awareness, to publicize events, and to co-ordinate the forthcoming activities for the IYF.

National policies and programmes on behalf of families: The instruments of national family policy are many and, in addition to financial assistance, cover numerous legal facets aimed at making family life easier.

Family allowances, paid out of the Family Allowance Fund, are central to these arrangements. Depending upon their objectives, these allowances are of different kinds:

(a) Maintenance allowances designed to compensate for the expenses incurred in rearing children;

(b) Allowances linked to childbirth or infancy;

(c) Special-purpose allowances - coverage of school entry costs or expenses incurred by the presence of a family member with disability;

(d) Single-status allowances - single parents or orphaned children;

(e) Employment benefits for care of young children; and

(f) Housing allowances.

Social assistance for children, which falls within the competence of the provinces ('départements'), includes material, educational and psychological support for minors and families facing difficult social problems.

Regarding health, the provincial centres for mothers' and children protection organize consultations and preventive medicine.

The observance of the IYF will provide France with an opportunity to activate even further the already considerable mobilization of the various participants involved in the national effort on behalf of families.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Plans for the IYF include:

(a) Holding a national seminar on "Families and Research", organized by the Institute for Children and the Family, January 1994;

(b) Organizing an IYF inaugural event in collaboration with various associations and enterprises;

(c) Undertaking an awareness campaign on the family aimed at the private sector;

(d) Improving information on the roles and activities of the many organizations and associations working in the family area;

(e) Evaluating family policy, observing the procedures outlined in the Decree of 22 July 1990 on the evaluation of public policies;

(f) Developing innovative measures taken by the Family Allowance Fund, for example, care facilities for young children;

(g) Continuing preventive initiatives aimed at young people and families in difficulty, and to bring these measures to the attention of the public at large;

(h) Organizing, at the regional and national levels, technical events to promote more effective co-operation between various family partners;

(i) Publicizing the work of international organizations (Council of Europe, European Community, United Nations, etc.);

(j) Designing promotional items, including the logo, a pin, etc.

GAMBIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Mr. John Camara, Coordinator
National Coordinating Committee for
International Year of the Family
Department of Social Welfare
Marina Parade
Banjul, The Gambia

FOCAL POINT

Department of Social Welfare
Marina Parade
Banjul, The Gambia

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

A National Co-ordinating Committee has been established in the Gambia to assist planning, coordination and effective implementation of IYF activities. The Committee consists of non-governmental organizations, religious bodies, United Nations agencies, the private sector and Government bodies concerned with the family.

Five regions are to be presided over by Divisional Commissioners who are in the process of creating Divisional sub-committees for planning activities for the Year.

Programmes and events for the IYF

(i) To plan and develop strategies and support the planning of activities for IYF observances in The Gambia;
(ii) To identify areas of concern in the Gambia regarding the family and bring them to the attention of Government and other relevant organizations;
(iii) To review Government policies, programmes and legislation as they impact on families, and make recommendations for necessary change;
(iv) To advocate for the family through awareness-raising and education on issues affecting the family;
(v) To promote IYF activities in other organizations and the community;
(vi) To liaise with the media regarding all aspects of IYF activities and promotion;
(vii) To facilitate the achievement of overall IYF objectives within the Gambia.

GERMANY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
H.E. Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker President of the Federal Republic of Germany Patron of the International Year of the Family within the Federal Republic of Germany H.E. Mrs. Hannelore Rönsch Secretary of State for the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs and Senior Citizens President of the Co-ordination Group of the German National Commission for the International Year of the Family Celsiustrasse 112, D-53125 Bonn	Secretary of State Federal Ministry for Family Affairs and Senior Citizens Chairperson of the Co-ordination Group of the German National Commission for the IYF Celsiusstrasse 112 D-53125 Bonn

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The German National Commission for the International Year of the Family was established on 11 June 1992. It consists of nine working groups dealing with the following themes:

(1) Harmonizing work and family life so as to benefit mothers and fathers;

(2) Family-oriented housing and environment;

(3) Economic situation of families;

(4) Social and cultural environment of families;

(5) Family policy at the local and regional levels;

(6) The family in the media;

(7) Organization and distribution of family services;

(8) The family in unified Europe

(9) Family and education.

These nine themes have been combined in a National Report on the family ("National Family Report 1994") that will serve as a framework and basis of action for activities, projects and measures within the Year and beyond.

A permanent Co-ordinating Group, acting in close contact with the working groups, is responsible for preparing, implementing and evaluating the IYF programmes and activities. The Co-ordination Group, chaired by the Secretary of State of the Federal Ministry for Family Affairs and Senior Citizens, includes representatives of the four family associations, four representatives of the Länder Governments, and the chairpersons of the working groups.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Activities for the Year are being planned within the context of the following priority objectives:

(i) Enhancing the public's knowledge about the availability of services for families;

(ii) Increasing the awareness of family issues in the old and new Federal Länder;

(iii) Improving the accessibility of family services at the local, regional and national levels; and

(iv) Strengthening international co-operation on family policies.

Observances of the Year at the national level begin with the inaugural ceremony on 8 January 1994, in Berlin.

Members of the National Commission have been urged to adopt the priorities of the IYF in their member organizations and to develop relevant programmes. The Central Office for the IYF has received 50 applications for support of activities, events, seminars, initiatives and projects to be realized by central Federal organizations. Regional preparatory bodies are being consulted in individual Federal Länder. More than 90 different projects are already planned at the regional and local levels, including family days, exhibitions, seminars and family meetings. The Central Office of the German National Commission for the IYF is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of these and other bodies at the local and regional levels as well as for preparing a calendar of events for the Federal Republic.

GHANA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Co-ordinating Committee
for the International Year of
of the Family (NCC)
Department of Social Welfare
c/o Ghana Permanent Mission
56, Rue de Moillebeau
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

FOCAL POINT

Department of Social Welfare
Government of Ghana
Accra

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Ghana has established a National Co-ordinating Committee under the auspices of the Department of Social Welfare to plan and implement action programmes for the observance of the International Year of the Family.

The Government has also indicated that various issues or problems that have negative effects on families will be studied as part of the preparations for and observance of the Year. Those involve:

(1) Rural/urban drift involving the young (15-25 years) - need for relevant vocational/technical education or training schemes to be community initiated in the rural areas.

(2) Separation of family members temporarily or permanently - need for child care allowances, day care centres and services for the aged.

(3) Problems associated with child survival and development, such as child immunization and nutrition services.

(4) Problems of disabled members of the family - need for special training and rehabilitation schemes and programmes for early detection.

(5) The need for preservation of norms and values of respective societies to preserve family cohesion and solidarity.

(6) Need for social education programmes to contribute to the full development potential of people.

(7) Provision of household helpers in cases of ill-health or infirmity, including the aged.

(8) Income-generating projects to enhance the status of women, especially those in the rural areas.

(9) Encouraging family counselling services.

All those activities would be accompanied by public and social education programmes, involving also the mass media.

On 19 February 1993, the First Lady of Ghana launched a national appeal for funds for the International Year of the Family.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The National action plan for observance of the Year includes:

(1) Launching of the IYF, including prayers and lecture on "Family as the Basic Unit of Society: Resources and Responsibilities in a Changing World" (19 January 1994);

(2) A symposium on traditional family structures (19 February 1994);

(3) An educational programme on problems associated with rural - urban migration (19 March 1994);

(4) Radio and television symposium on women's responsibilities toward the family in a changing world as well as a national conference on "Family Challenges and Strategies in a Changing World" (April 1994);

(5) A national forum on men's responsibilities toward family life in contemporary Ghana (May 1994);

(6) Focus month on refugee families through a lecture;

(7) A special initiative on problems associated with Child Development and Survival including a talk and symposium on the "Rights of Children in Ghanian Society" (July 1994);

(8) A month (August 1994) devoted to the issue of population and national resources, including a lecture on this theme and media events on the subject of family planning and family size;

(9) A lecture on the theme of the elderly and sustainable family ties to emphasize the role of the elderly as agents of socio-cultural development (September 1994);

(10) A symposium, in October 1994, on "Broken Homes: Pre-marital Counselling - A Way Out", to consider establishment of a mechanism at the community and national level for pre-marriage counselling;

(11) A lecture on "Disability in the Family", to promote adequate care for persons with disabilities (November 1994);

(12) Evaluation of the Year; formulation of a follow-up action plan as well as the establishment of a Centre for Family Affairs (December 1994);

GREECE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
c/o the Ministry of Health, Welfare
and Social Security
Aristotelous Street 17
10433 Athens

FOCAL POINT

Mr. P. Kontoulakos
General Secretary for Social Affairs
Ministry of Health, Welfare and
Social Security
General Directorate of Welfare
Division for the Protection of the
Family and the Child
Aristotelous Street 17
10433 Athens

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

By decision of the Ministerial Council, a Committee of Ministers composed of the Ministers of Health, Welfare and Social Security, National Education and Religion, Labour, Culture and the General Secretariat of Equality, was formed. The Committee is responsible for the general programming and supervision of the activities and events to be staged for the preparations of the International Year of the Family (IYF).

The Committee of Ministers has set up two committees to assist it - a National Committee composed of representatives from the public sector, and another composed of members from private sector organizations involved in family matters. The main function of these two executive committees is to submit proposals to the Committee of Ministers regarding the programming and staging of activities for the Year as well as implementing its decisions.

Programmes and events for the IYF

One programme is to inform and, through awareness campaigns, awaken the public to the importance of the family and its irreplaceable role for society and the nation. A congress will be organized in order to exchange ideas and to submit proposals regarding the family in society, and to collect statistical data to set up a data bank on family matters. The National Committee will provide the necessary resources to fund the media campaign through the radio, TV and press.

The National Welfare Organization (N.W.O.), which operates 30 urban Family Centres and 320 rural Family Centres, has been charged by the Greek National Committee for the IYF to prepare the national conference and data bank on family matters. Other activities include:

(i) a research project on "Solidarity between generations: Relationships and support between old and young members of the Greek family";

(ii) a research project on "The roles of father and mother in the contemporary Greek family: Expectations and reality";

(iii) a project that is underway, within the context of the N.W.O. - Information Data Base listing, classifying and analyzing the services of agencies in Greece that are addressed to families and children;

(iv) two all-day meetings on matters related to family, one to be held in Athens and one in Thessaloniki;

(v) a publication planned for the near future in two language versions (one Greek and one English-French), on "Child Protection and Care: Trends and Prospects";

(vi) promotion of partnerships and networks on the Greek, as well as on the European level, of agencies that deal with children and families;

(vii) introduction of new services that aim at facing the more complex needs of the contemporary family (help-lines, advisory services, home-care services etc.);

(viii) cultural activities at the local and national levels, including re-creating old family customs and traditions, exhibitions of old family pictures, writing down genealogical trees and family histories, awards programmes, etc.

GRENADA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM *FOCAL POINT*

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education
Government of Grenada
St. George's

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Grenada has established a broad-based committee consisting of representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations (including the church, the business community and the trade union movement) to plan and implement activities for the Year. This Organizing Committee is supported by sub-committees which are responsible for various fields of activities, such as sports, culture etc.

The Committee, which is headed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education, held competitions for the selection of an appropriate theme and logo.

An official launching ceremony for the IYF was planned to include a formal launching of the Year's activities by His Excellency The Governor General, Sir Reginald Palmer. The sub-committees are presently engaged in the drawing up of plans which will be combined into a National Action Plan.

Attempts are being made to incorporate family-related themes and activities into established national celebrations, such as Independence, Carnival and Christmas. In this regard, the theme "One people, One family, One nation" has been chosen for celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of Grenada's independence (February 7th, 1994).

To build a focus on the family into the independence celebrations, parish committees have planned 'Family Nights' during which families are invited to attend cultural activities.

The local media, both printed and electronic, are involved in the dissemination of information on, and the promotion of, the International Year of the Family. The organizing committee was able to obtain free promotion of the recently held Theme and Logo competitions. The television division of the Grenada Broadcasting Corporation has started special programmes which focus on the family.

The Government's goal is the mobilization of all sectors of the community under the banner of the International Year of the Family.

GUATEMALA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Office of the First Lady
Guatemala City
Guatemala

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The IYF is to be observed in Guatemala against the background of existing measures for families. In particular, the Constitution of Guatemala recognizes the family as the primary and basic source of the spiritual and moral values of society. Efforts are called upon to co-ordinate and integrate the development of the family through the following objectives and policies:

Objectives: (i) to organize the social services and institutional support networks to ensure welfare and legal protection of the families; (ii) to imbue all family members with a sense of responsibility for their own personal fulfillment; and (iii) to make families the vehicle through which moral values are preserved and transmitted to the community.

Policies: These include (i) the necessary support to assist those family groups regarded as especially vulnerable - e.g. poverty-stricken households - together with training to develop skills; (ii) the family group should be strengthened to enable it to provide for the moral welfare, health, education, and nutritional needs of its members, with emphasis on children and the elderly; (iii) the establishment of community day-care centres throughout the country.

International Year of the Family

A National Committee for the IYF has been formed, comprising representatives from the following sectors and institutions: the Ministries of Education, of Public Health and Social Services, and of Labour and Social Security; the National Economic Planning Board; the Department of Social Welfare; the Presidential Commission for Human Rights (COPREDH); the National Office for Women's Affairs; the Programme of Assistance for Widowed and Orphaned Victims of Violence; and the Social Studies and Research Associations (ASIES).

The Committee has formulated studies on the family under the following headlines: Anthropological; Sociological; Psychological; Educational; Financial; and Ethical and Legal. Within this framework, the Committee has identified the national objectives that have been used to draw up a general programme of activities. It has been decided that this programme should involve action at the national, regional and local levels, to secure the assistance of key groups in detecting family needs.

The Committee has recognized the need for an executive secretariat to ensure co-ordinated efforts and to provide specific guidelines for the proposed activities.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The general objectives for the IYF include enhancing the role of the family as an irreplaceable unit within Guatemala society in: (i) the procreation and socialization of children; (ii) family as a natural educator; (iii) imparting culture; and (iv) shaping values for peace, respect for human rights, democratization, and elimination of discrimination.

The specific objectives are (i) to define a national family policy; (ii) to undertake a survey of the situation of the Guatemalan family; (iii) to draw up a national plan of action concerning the family; (iv) to organize and encourage the involvement of society in family issues - a review and adaptation of government programmes; and (v) to review and update legislation.

Accomplishments include: (i) a seminar was held, attended by provincial governors, co-ordinators of development boards, and local authorities; (ii) a document was prepared, setting out proposals for educational activities in connection with the IYF; and (iii) a register was produced, listing the main public institutions and non-governmental organizations that run programmes in favour of the family.

Activities to be undertaken: A workshop seminar, involving public and private institutions concerned with family issues at the national level, will be held to gather information so as to deal with family problems in the short-, medium- and long-term, and to devise communication and co-ordination mechanisms to ensure the success of the proposed activities.

GUINEA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
	Ministère des Affaires Sociales et de l'Emploi Conakry

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In Guinea, the family is recognized the basic unit of society; however, significant changes have been affecting all families which is a basic concern of the IYF in this country. The traditional family was characterized by close ties which gave it considerable stability and balance. It played a cardinal role in education, and was the economic unit of community life. But the family community is now shrinking as it splits into solitary units. This has resulted in a weakening of the traditional family, and a rural exodus into the towns. The results are: widespread unemployment, inadequate housing, lack of education and other problems.

These problems also include juvenile delinquency and drug addiction and rapid transmission of certain diseases including AIDS, which the National AIDS Committee is already predicting as a long-term demographic catastrophe for Guinea.

National policies and programmes for the family in Guinea

At the end of 1985, the Guinean Government undertook an ambitious programme of economic and financial reforms. The basic law, which was adopted in 1990, constitutes the legal framework for the population policy relating to family welfare and reaffirms:

- The equality of men and women before the law;
- Marriage and protection of the family as the basic unit of society;
- Compulsory education and health for all;
- Creation of employment, and employment security; and
- Protection of children, the elderly and disabled persons.

Though there is so far no family policy in Guinea, family problems are being taken into account in other policies and laws adopted by the Government, such as laws concerned with policies on population; education; the environment; housing; social security and health.

All these policies are designed, inter alia, with a view to reducing the death rate; improving the nutritional state of the people; developing education for the various levels of the population; improving housing conditions; protecting vulnerable groups, such as children, the elderly, and disabled persons; and reducing the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, such as AIDS.

Programmes and events for the IYF

To reach the specific objectives laid down for the IYF in the Republic of Guinea, a National Co-ordinating Committee, a National Programme for the Year, and a programme for assisting up to 500 needy families, have been planned.

Members of the National Co-ordinating Committee are to be from the staff of all the ministries dealing with family matters, non-governmental organizations, various associations, and the private sector.

The national IYF programme covers all Government and non-governmental programmes, and is divided into regional, prefectural and municipal areas so as to reach as many families as possible. The project to assist 500 needy families will be submitted to SOS Kinderdorf International for financial assistance. This also involves refugee families from Liberia and Sierra Leone, who are now in Guinea.

GUYANA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security Homestretch Avenue D'Urban Park Georgetown	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security Homestretch Avenue D'Urban Park Georgetown

HONDURAS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
National Committee for the IYF c/o United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative Office in Honduras Edificio CIICSA Col. Palmira Tegucigalpa	Ms. Maria Luisa Castellanos Secretary General National Committee for the IYF Information Officer United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative Office in Honduras Edificio CIICSA Col. Palmira Tegucigalpa

NATIONAL ACTION

To prepare for the International Year of the Family, the First Lady of Honduras created, and participates in, the IYF National Committee. The National Council for Social Welfare (UNBS) has offered full support to the United Nations in its activities for the family.

The National Committee has formed three commissions - executive, finance, and publicity; each of which will elaborate a plan of action for observance of the International Year of the Family.

Two sub-commissions have been established under the Executive Commission to deal with issues in the judicial and educational spheres.

The judicial sub-commission will undertake investigations of the current situation of families in Honduras and an analysis of existing family and other laws.

The educational sub-commission includes representatives from the Education and Family Association, Ministries and other interested groups.

The official launching of the International Year of the Family was held on 2 December 1993, presided over by the President of the Republic.

HUNGARY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Dr. László Surján
Minister of Welfare
National Co-ordinating Committee
for the International Year of the Family
Ministry of Welfare
V. Arany Janós utca 6-8
H-1361 Budapest

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Béla Bene, Director
Family Department
Ministry of Welfare
V. Arany Janós utca 6-8
H-1361 Budapest

NATIONAL ACTION

Questions concerning preparations for the International Year of the Family have been discussed by the Hungarian Government, and the Minister of Welfare has been nominated as the main patron of the event. The Government has accepted the programme and approved the IYF budget.

The slogan for the IYF is "Everyone needs a Family, the Family needs everyone". The idea that "... the Family needs everyone" is to stress the role of natural human care and assistance, and to express the openness and need for co-operation of the family. Each member has a special place, role, task and responsibility in the framework of the family. Children, parents, grandparents, the young and the old, are all accepted and honoured family members.

To plan the national programme, two committees have been created with participation of leading personalities - Members of Parliament, academics, writers, artists, church dignitaries, and heads of social associations for family welfare:

(1) Expert Committee - to outline the basic concepts of the IYF, the IYF slogan, and to work out the main national programme framework.

(2) Operational Committee - to prepare and carry out the programmes.

The unit responsible for arranging the national programme is the Department for Family, Child and Youth Policy at the Ministry of Welfare; and the focal point is the Director of the Family Department. An independent office has been set up in the Department for administrative tasks and to assist in the organizational activity.

HUNGARY - 2

On 2 November 1993, the Ministry of Welfare organized a press conference on the preparations and national programmes for the IYF. The proposed programmes include:

(i) Scientific conferences;
(ii) Country-wide (national and international), regional and local events;
(iii) Publication of scientific and popular literature; and
(iv) Publicity and co-operation of the media.

The following national programmes will be organized during the IYF:

(i) An opening gala with a cultural programme - February 1994;
(ii) A two-day conference at governmental level. Subjects: "The family in Hungarian society"; "The principle and practice of family care"; and "Care for families" - February 1994;
(iii) An International Meeting of Large Families organized by the National Association of Large Families - 21-24 June 1994;
(iv) Conference of the European Psychodrama Institute. Subject: "The Psychodrama as a tool in family care" - October 1994;
(v) Programmes run by families themselves; and
(vi) A closing gala with a cultural programme - November 1994.

ICELAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Mr. Bragi Gudbrandsson
Counsellor to Minister of
Social Affairs
National Coordinating Committee
for the International Year of the
Family (IYF)
Hafnarhúsinu v/Tryggvagõtu
150 Reykjavik

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Ingibjorg Broddadottir
Coordinator for the IYF 1994 in Iceland
Hafnarhúsinu v/Tryggvagõtu
150 Reykjavik

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In October 1992, the Minister for Social Affairs appointed a National Co-ordinating Committee to stimulate and co-ordinate IYF activities. The major purpose of this Committee is to inform its own organizations about the IYF and to organize activities among their members. The Committee members represent major federations of labour and employers, non-governmental organizations, the Church and other groups interested in family-related matters, such as the Icelandic Save the Children. An Executive Committee of eight persons has been formed; information collected by that Committee is available to members of the National Committee.

Programmes and events for IYF

The National Committee has drafted a plan of action which will be carried out in several phases over the coming years. The goal of the plan is to strengthen Icelandic families as well as the public acceptance of them as basic units of society, in which individuals share emotions, responsibilities, finances and leisure.

The major objectives have been defined as:

(1) Formation and implementation of a comprehensive family policy;
(2) Promotion of a change in attitudes towards the family both among the public as well as among those in power, in order to emphasize the importance of the family; and
(3) Improvement in the welfare of families with young children and implementation of specific services to satisfy their needs.

The first step towards achieving these objectives was a comprehensive data collection on Icelandic families. A report has been prepared on the situation of Icelandic families based on information collected by the Committee. The report will form the basis for further work and data collection and will contain recommendations for family policy. The main chapters of the report cover:

(a) Statistical information, including family formation, size and structure of the family;
(b) Economic situation, income and housing of families;
(c) Day care for children and schools;
(d) Problems faced by families, such as communication, abandoned children, violence, social problems and mental health;
(e) Social security, family allowances and taxation;
(f) A list of Icelandic laws which have a direct impact on the well-being of families;
(g) Bibliography of works which provide information on issues related to family life.

The National Committee has initiated a comprehensive research project on single-parent families. The project will be prepared in close co-operation with the Department of Social Sciences of the University of Iceland and will be co-ordinated by a member of the Committee. The Ministry of Social Affairs will finance the project, the results of which will be published in August 1994. The United Nations brochure on IYF has also been translated into Icelandic.

Working groups composed of members of the National Committee will deal with the following issues: (a) the formation of the family; (b) the family and the school; and (c) how families are affected by the implementation of legislation. Each group will prepare a report on its assigned topic which will offer suggestions to the National Committee. As these reports are completed, new groups will be formed and will focus on other issues.

Extensive work is under way on behalf of the National Committee in order to: (a) clarify the needs of families with children; (b) gather information on services available, and by whom they are provided; (c) identify which services should be provided by local communities, and which by the State. The new legislation will be implemented in 1994. The Minister of Social Affairs has invited the National Committee to present ideas and suggestions as the basis of new legislation on family services.

The Committee will undertake several other programmes, including one to promote close co-operation between schools and day care services, with a view to involving both children and teachers.

ICELAND - 3

Specific elements of the national plan of observances include an official inauguration event in Reykjavik addressed by the President of Iceland, Ms. Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, and followed by a comprehensive conference on family issues. The 20 lectures delivered during the conference are to be published in a book during 1994. Selected groups of lecturers will also convene the conference on family issues in several parts of the country during the Year.

INDIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Shri Sitaram Kesri Union Minister of Welfare Ministry of Welfare Government of India New Delhi	Ministry of Welfare Government of India Shastree Bhavan New Delhi

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of India has passed a resolution constituting a National Committee headed by the Minister of Welfare with representation from: the Departments of Women and Child Development, Education, Youth Affairs and Sports in the Ministry of Human Resource Development; as well as from the Ministries of Health and Family Welfare; Labour; Urban Development; Rural Development; Environment and Forests; Home Affairs and Agriculture. A number of national organizations involved in family affairs or research are also members of the Committee as well as representatives of United Nations bodies and specialized agencies.

Government schemes and the family: Government schemes that benefit families and their members are divided among different ministries. These include the Ministry of Welfare, which handles social defence, persons with disabilities, minorities, tribal development, and scheduled castes and backward classes; the Bureau of Social Defence controls family problems such as delinquency, juvenile vagrancy, drug addiction, etc. and also has a scheme for the welfare of children in need of protection by which they are provided with foster and institutional family services. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has various departments dealing with children, women, the elderly, etc. Social housing schemes are implemented through the Ministry of Urban Development as well as the Ministry of Rural Development.

India's National Housing Policy has as its long-term goal the eradication of housing shortages, improving the general housing conditions, and providing basic services and amenities to everyone. The National Policy for Child Labour, the National Youth Policy, the National Policy on Education, and the National Health Policy, all aim at specific services for select groups of individuals, but have clear implications for the family.

INDONESIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Office of the Co-ordinating
Minister for People's Welfare
Jalan
Merdeka Barat No. 3
Jakarta Pusat

FOCAL POINT

Direktur Jenderal Bina
Kesejahteraan Sosial
Department of Social Affairs
JL. Salemba Raya No. 28
Jakarta Pusat

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

Government Programmes: To prepare for the International Year of the Family, the Indonesian Government has established a "National Day of the Family".

The general aim of the IYF in Indonesia is to encourage local and national efforts to improve the quality of family life and also that of community, as a part of a long-term endeavour within the framework of achieving prosperity for families and thus for their communities. The IYF programme aims at implementing family functions that, among other things, cover religion, welfare and protection; reproduction; socialization and education; and environmental questions.

Women's increasing status goes hand in hand with social changes taking place; a Government agency that promotes the role of women is headed by a State Minister.

The increasing number of elderly persons has motivated the Government to improve their welfare. The Department of Health and the Department of Social Welfare have taken over the responsibility of trying to help the elderly, especially those abandoned.

Participation of religious community leaders, NGOs and community organizations is to be developed through communication, information and education. Plans are afoot to launch programmes, which include: raising the family health level; eradicating poverty and slums; and improving skills for women, young people, and persons with disabilities.

Programme and events for the IYF

In addition to the longer-term activities undertaken in support of families in Indonesia, the following special activities are planned to highlight the IYF:

(i) Nation-wide announcement of the IYF activities, and decisions concerning the National Day of the Family;
(ii) Dissemination of information on IYF and its links with activities to establish family prosperity, such as exhibitions and informal meetings;
(iii) Scientific meetings to consolidate the implementation of family functions;
(iv) The issue of IYF postage stamps;
(v) Voluntary social work to arouse communal concern and participation; and
(vi) National activities arising from local action.

Activities in the provinces will include:

(i) Dissemination of information through newspapers, TV and radio, exhibitions and meetings;
(ii) Voluntary social work; and
(iii) Miscellaneous activities which may help consolidate the role of the family.

IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
National Committee for the International Year of the Family c/o Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and other International Organizations Jaurésgasse 3 1030 Vienna, Austria	Iranian Welfare Organization Dr. Fayaz-Bakhsh Ave. P.O. Box 11365/9187 Tehran Iran

NATIONAL ACTION

A National Committee for the preparation and observance of the International Year of the Family has been established in the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran. 1994 is seen as a unique opportunity for the people of Iran to recall the importance of the family role.

The Iranian National Committee is responsible for co-ordinating the activities related to the Year and has launched a public information programme to honour the Year.

(1) During July 1993, meetings of the Iranian National Committee were held with participation of representatives from organizations concerned, such as the Welfare Organization, the Plan and Budget Organization, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Several issues regarding preparations for the Year at the national level were discussed and decisions adopted.

(2) In a national seminar, entitled "Family and Young Generation", convened in the Kurdesaran Province, university professors and social experts gave lectures on the topic. The seminar, aiming at an elaboration of the role of the family, was only the first of its kind; more seminars are to be held in other parts of Iran.

(3) To increase social awareness on the status of the family, a manual has been published, under the title "Talk to Families", which gives instructions as to how to help solve family problems.

(4) The National Committee has also established local committees in all provinces under supervision of the Welfare Organization. These local committees in all cities shall report their activities to the National Committee for due consideration.

(5) The National Committee has launched a public information campaign utilizing the mass media. In this regard a special programme is broadcast by Tehran-Radio, entitled "The Family".

(6) The Government has continued and intensified efforts to improve and develop programmes aimed at promoting the advancement of the family in areas such as health and guidance programmes. For these purposes, the National Committee plans to hold a series of seminars on the problems of the family.

IRAQ

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Iraqi National Committee for the Observance of the International Year of the Family c/o Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the International Organizations Johannesgasse 26 A-1010 Vienna Austria	International Secretary Iraqi National Committee for the Observance of the International Year of the Family c/o Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the International Organizations Johannesgasse 26 A-1010 Vienna Austria

NATIONAL ACTION

The Iraqi National Committee for the Observance of the International Year of the Family will be carrying out the following activities in the context of the Year:

(1) Convening a conference with the participation of all the authorities concerned with family affairs, with a view to considering the ways and means of developing the Iraqi family in the cultural, economic, social and health spheres;

(2) Initiation of surveys on the educational, cultural and productive aspects of Iraqi families;

(3) To celebrate the 15th of May every year, as the International Day of Families;

(4) To convene a national conference on the Iraqi family in 1994, with participation of relevant official and non-official bodies, to discuss research work and studies undertaken on the Iraqi family, and the effects of the economic blockade on the family, as regards the health, social and economic aspects.

The National Committee for the IYF is composed of both governmental and non-governmental agencies directly concerned with family issues. The General Federation of Iraqi Women is playing an important role in that regard.

IRELAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The International Year of the Family will be observed in Ireland against the backdrop of existing developments of benefit to families.

Support for the family has been a striking aspect of community development in Ireland. Family Resource Centres figure prominently in projects seeking funding, equipment, training in parenting skills, etc. These Resource Centres have developed the confidence of local people and experience has shown that they can be the catalyst for local development of enterprise and jobs. The Government fully supports this development in Ireland. A Charter for Voluntary Social Services is being prepared and will set out the policy for partnership between voluntary and State sectors, providing opportunities for continued partnership with Family Resource Centres.

The purpose of the Community Development Programme is to assist communities to maximize the benefits from voluntary activities going on in their areas. Under the Programme, direct grants are provided for setting up a Resource centre to provide a focal point for the community's activities.

The Women Grants Scheme has been initiated for self-development, assertiveness and development of skills, particularly for women in disadvantaged communities. In 1991, the Minister for Social Welfare initiated the ruling that women working part-time should also be covered by Social Insurance, since many women do work part time, so as to spend as much time as possible in the household, especially if small children are present.

ISRAEL

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Department of International Relations
10 Yad Harutzim Street
P.O. Box 1260
Jerusalem 93420

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Avraham Lavine, Director
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Department of International Relations
10 Yad Harutzim Street
P.O. Box 1260
Jerusalem 93420

NATIONAL ACTION

Pending the establishment of a National Committee, an inter-ministerial committee has taken preparatory steps in planning for the International Year of the Family. The Government has also indicated that it is discussing the possibility of issuing a commemorative IYF postage stamp and publishing a number of promotional materials and substantive studies for the IYF, such as:

(i) An annotated bibliography of recent articles on family-related issues by Israeli authors that have appeared in Israel and abroad;

(ii) A report, entitled "State of the Family in Israel", that will be an update, based on previous studies, such as "Households in Israel", published in February 1989;

(iii) A selection of Israeli laws concerning the family; and

(iv) A compendium of services for the family that have been undertaken in Israel in recent years.

Over the years, various waves of migrants to Israel from all parts of the world have each brought its own attitude to the family, each type of family then having to integrate into the mainstream of Israeli society. For many, this meant a total change in attitude towards family roles, and necessitated considerable understanding and counselling from welfare authorities.

Since many women work, the women's organizations provide subsidized day-care facilities for children; and the Ministry for Social Affairs provides similar facilities for children of under-privileged families. In its policies on gender equality, the Government has stressed laws protecting working mothers and pregnant women.

Teaching modules on the subjects of establishing families, family functioning and the family in migration have been introduced into the educational system. Steps are also being taken to expand family services, such as those concerned with the treatment of family violence and emergency shelter. In 1991, the Knesset passed a law "for the protection of the helpless", which defines parental violence as a crime.

Seminars and workshops for training in family care for professionals and volunteers will be increased during the IYF. The Ministry of Science and Technology will convene a conference on the theme "The Family on the Threshold of the 21st Century: Trends and Implications", in 1994.

ITALY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Minister for Social Affairs
Ministry for Social Affairs
Via Barberini 47
00187 Rome

FOCAL POINT

Dr. Tiziana Zannini
Dipartimento per gli Affari Sociali
Ufficio per le Problematiche
della Famiglia, della Terza Età,
dei Disabili e degli Emarginati
Via Barberini 47
00187 Rome

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Prime Minister of Italy stated in a specific decree that the Minister for Social Affairs would be responsible for coordinating activities related to the International Year of the Family at the national level. To carry out her mandate, the Minister for Social Affairs first established a National Co-ordinating Mechanism, in close relationship with the existing Committees for the Disabled, for Minors' Conditions, for the European Year for the Elderly; as well as the Commissions for Population and for Equal Opportunities.

The National Co-ordinating Mechanism is headed by the Minister for Social Affairs and is comprised of high-level representatives from various ministries and departments, non-governmental organizations, academic and research institutions, and private associations.

The Minister has given a mandate to the National Co-ordinating Mechanism to conduct a review of the impact of national legislation on families, and to promote studies and investigations on the family situation in Italy. For the IYF, the Co-ordinating Mechanism has also set up working groups on priority issues concerning the family. The results of this work will constitute the basic documentation, a "White Paper", to be discussed during a National (or International) Conference, to be held in the second semester of 1994.

A special group is charged with the monitoring of the national events related to the IYF.

The National Co-ordinating Mechanism's activities began in July 1993 and will be completed and evaluated in 1995.

ACTION PLAN

Special initiatives being undertaken in Italy in observance of the IYF include:

1) A "White Paper" on the Italian family with chapters concerning economy/family; demography/family; fiscal system/family; welfare services/family; rights/family; etc. The Minister for Social Affairs will present the "Paper" during a press conference to be held in March 1994;

2) Launching of televised promotional family spots on national and local networks (in March 1994);

3) Convention: "Family Associations: Building Links Between the Daily Life of the Family and New Citizenship", organized by International Centre for Family Studies (Cifs) and under the auspices of Department for Social Affairs (14-16 April 1994 - Milan);

4) International Conference "Social Family: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" (April 1994 - Trieste);

5) Launching of "The Family" theme song on the occasion of a national telecast to be held on 15 May 1994, the first International Day of Families;

6) On the occasion of the Venezia's cinematographic review (in September 1994) a film cycle on family life will be shown;

7) A children's art competition on the subject of family. This competition, organized by UNESCO/Florence and a private sponsor, will be held under the auspices of the Department for Social Affairs;

8) An International Conference on the Family, organized by Department for Social Affairs (second semester of 1994);

In the preparations for the observance of IYF, the Department for Social Affairs has sensitized the local bodies, the private associations, organizations and other interest groups. These bodies have been invited to organize congresses, seminars, meetings and discussion on family issues, or observe special "family days", to disseminate information by media, and to promote, coordinate and, if possible, undertake research on the family.

Furthermore, to celebrate the International Year of the Family, the Department for Social Affairs has produced and distributed to all interested parties quantities of a special poster, a brochure explaining the guidelines, objectives and the programme of the IYF, a folder, a badge and post cards.

JAMAICA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Co-ordinating Committee
for the IYF
Ministry of Local Government, Youth
and Community Development
c/o Permanent Mission of Jamaica
to the United Nations
866 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
2 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Wayne Thompson
First Secretary
Permanent Mission of Jamaica
to the United Nations
866 Second Avenue, 15th Floor
2 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10017, U.S.A.

NATIONAL ACTION

The Bureau of Women's Affairs has collaborated with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Sport, and Jamaica's representative on the UN Commission on the Status of Women, to seek suitable public figures for the Preparatory Committee for the International Year of the Family drawn from the church, community organizations, non-governmental organizations, the media, advertising agencies and the private sector. The Parish Advisory Committees of the Bureau of Women's Affairs has been informing communities that 1994 has been designated International Year of the Family.

Specific activities for the IYF include an "Eat what we grow" campaign, to run until the end of 1994; school gardens are being re-introduced to teach students agricultural skills of food and nutritional issues. Youth club programmes will be stimulated and community centres made more available to entire families.

As a result of lobbying from the inter-ministerial Committee on the Implementation of the National Policy Statement on Women, Government ministries are now establishing day-care facilities for children, so that working parents can be assured of their safety.

Concerning health, the Government is committed to promoting healthy living through health education and vaccination programmes, disease prevention, hygiene, and medical facilities. Also, the Government is providing support, guidance and assistance for parents to help prevent the break-up of families. Counselling will be available at the community level through Parish Advisory Committees and a Crisis Centre. A Family Court will continue counselling programmes.

Concerning disabled persons and the elderly, the Government will now ensure that consideration be given to allocating resources, especially housing, to families with elderly and disabled relatives.

JAPAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Liaison Council for the International
Year of the Family
Tokyo

FOCAL POINT

Human Rights and Refugees Division
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
100 Kasumigaseki 2-2-1
Chiyoda-Ku
Tokyo

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In March 1993, the Government set up a Liaison Council consisting of 18 Ministries and Agencies to improve co-operation and communication in preparing for the International Year of the Family and for the events and programmes to mark it. Local Governments have been informed of the IYF so that they can also plan their activities.

Government policies and measures for the family:

(a) The Government is promoting various policies to help harmonize family life and to emphasize public information activities, with a view to creating a society where parents and children shall find fulfillment in their home life.

(b) Measures related to aging: the Government has formulated a ten-year strategy to Promote Health Care and Welfare for the Aged and is now implementing comprehensive policies to create a vital society of longevity and welfare for the elderly.

(c) Creation of a society with the joint participation of men and women: The Government is now implementing comprehensive measures to achieve joint participation in society by men and women on an equal basis.

Individual administrative policies and measures

(a) The Government is promoting several measures to assist parents in learning through home education, including a variety of measures to encourage lifelong learning, and to promote diversified learning for people throughout their lives.

(b) Work: aware of the importance of the workers' environment, the Government is taking measures to ensure an increased compatibility of work and family, e.g. the application of Child-Care Leave Law, and widespread acceptance of the Family-Care Leave Scheme.

(c) Housing: positive housing policies are essential for the country's economic strength, where people have housing that meets their needs; thus, the Government is promoting housing construction.

(d) Women, the elderly and youth in rural areas: active participation of women and the elderly in family life is essential. The Government is implementing various measures in line with a Medium- and Long-Term Vision for Rural Women, formulated in 1992. Also, the Government is promoting measures to train specialized personnel to care for the elderly in rural areas, and to encourage young people to train in agriculture and remain in the farming sector.

(e) Miscellaneous: regarding the important role of the family in the development of young people and prevention of juvenile delinquency, the Government promotes various measures, including public information activities and youth counselling.

  (i) Because of a drastic increase in traffic accidents, especially among children and the elderly, there is a growing need for action to prevent such accidents. Thus, a number of safety measures have been initiated;

  (ii) Further improvements of public facilities in parks and in recreation areas are being carried out;

  (iii) To protect the elderly from crime, special advice and counselling are to be provided by police officers who make home visits, in addition to general public information activities; and

  (iv) The Government is developing measures to enhance children's interest in, and appreciation of, science and technology.

JORDAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Family **Government of the Hashemite** **Kingdom of Jordan** **Amman**	**Ministry of Social Development** **Amman**

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been established to define the terms of reference and justification for the establishment of a national committee which would be responsible for preparations and observance of the International Year of the Family. The Committee has been consulting other concerned bodies.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The Government has continued and intensified efforts to improve and develop programmes aimed at promoting the advancement of the family in such areas as health and nutrition, and guidance and information programmes. Special attention is being given to extending these programmes in remote rural and nomadic areas, as well as in underdeveloped districts in large towns.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee has also been formed to review existing legislation, including that related to the family and children to ensure that such legislation conforms with social, economic and political rights of these segments of the population. Attention will also be given to ensuring that existing laws conform to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which the Government has ratified.

The Ministry of Social Development intends to apply new organizational instructions and principles in the area of family guidance, with a view to achieving full coverage for all families. Emphasis will be placed on two trends: internal migration and the recent explosive population growth.

Other activities of the preparatory process aim at:

(a) Assuming an active role in improving regulations and laws affecting female prisoners, children in welfare institutions, abused children and children working as vendors, car-washers etc.;

(b) Undertaking special studies to determine the causes of early school leaving, at the elementary level;

(c) Conducting studies to combat vagrancy and begging at the level of both the individual and the family;

(d) Conducting studies on growing homelessness among the elderly whose situation has deteriorated because of the decline of the extended family.

The Government has identified the following issues for the IYF:

(a) To enable the Development of Hygienic Training at the Ministry of Health the means to introduce practical applications of hygiene education for women, especially in rural areas;

(b) To teach illiterate mothers and young girls to help them to improve their situations;

(c) To grant mothers the freedom of choice concerning limiting the family size by more infrequent pregnancies;

(d) Increasing the age of matrimony to 18;

(e) Campaigning against adolescent pregnancy;

(f) Introducing laws for elderly women, especially regarding heredity and divorce matters;

(g) Equality in hygienic care and social services for refugees and emigrant women;

(h) Child care and pregnancy leave for a minimum of six months;

(i) To allow sufficient time for working mothers to reach the appropriate place for feeding their children;

(j) To enable close contact of mothers with their new-born babies at hospitals; and

(k) Establishment of nursery schools at various institutes and offices where there are more than six working mothers with small children.

KIRIBATI

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

Kiribati consists of 33 small islands with a total area of 726 km². Over the last five years the population has increased by 2.2. per cent, a rapid increase that is too great to be sustained on a long-term basis, and must be slowed down or the country's limited resources will be severely depleted. It has been suggested, therefore, that efforts to reduce the population growth through family planning programmes should be pursued as a priority concern of the IYF. A Population Council was to be set up at the national level. It would develop a national population policy that may be implemented through the Population Planning Unit (PPU) in the Ministry of Health, Family Planning and Social Welfare.

In implementing various family planning programmes, the PPU will co-ordinate their population control activities with those of the NGOs, particularly church organizations.

Much effort is now going into educating women to give them the necessary confidence and opportunity to participate more fully in modern Kiribati society, but many traditional aspects still block their progress. The need for more intensive action in all areas of concern for women has been identified, including through enforcement of existing laws and development of new legislation.

KUWAIT

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour
P.O. Box 563
Safat
Kuwait City

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Kuwait has indicated that action should be taken on the following issues within the International Year of the Family:

(1) Ensuring food security;

(2) Combating illiteracy in the family;

(3) Provision of adequate housing;

(4) Protection from pollution;

(5) Elimination of racial discrimination;

(6) Raising the standard of public utilities, such as water, electricity and communication; and

(7) Alleviating the burden of international debts owed by developing countries.

A postage stamp to mark the International Year of the Family will be issued.

KYRGYZSTAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparation for and observance of the IYF in Kyrgyzstan is focused around key societal issues affecting Kirghis families. At present, almost half the population receives government pensions or allowances which, due to inflation, are not enough, particularly for the elderly. This is a key concern of the Government concerning the well-being of families. A number of other initiatives provide the background for the IYF in Kyrgyzstan, including: shelters for homeless children; and for the first time, the Government has established old people's homes to take in the elderly who would formerly have been cared for by the extended family.

There is now a Government programme on the rehabilitation of the Kirghis family, which has valuable co-operation from both the Government and public sectors.

At the request of the President, a group of scientists drafted a new Law on education with a specific programme for its implementation. In 1992, this Law was passed by Parliament.

The Government also proposed that a new initiative be taken to deal with family problems, the main principles to be based on the UN Declaration of Human Rights, the international principles on economic, social and cultural rights, and The Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The following principles have been laid down to support these programmes and initiatives: (i) freedom of development of all family members; (ii) the realization of democratic principles in inter-family relations; and (iii) spatial housing to help future Kirghis families.

Features of the IYF plan, "The Kirghis Family in the Changing World", include:

(1) Family support through maternity and child welfare. This activity is supervised by the Ministry of Health;

(2) Education - the population of Kyrgyzstan is almost 100% literate. The aim here is to launch programmes on all the main questions concerning the family;

(3) Enlightenment - the family in the modern world. All programmes are meant for all levels of the population, at all ages;

(4) Spatial aspects of housing - consideration must be given to the peculiarities of Kirghis family customs, especially those of the extended family;

(5) Cultural basis of the family - Western stereotypes can damage family unity and its cultural originality. Thus, it is important to create an infrastructure to maintain social contacts;

(6) International exchange - to benefit from the practical experience of other countries, to be conducted through "People's Diplomacy".

For IYF and beyond, a new system of international exchange is proposed. Traditionally, it has been known as "Kel-kel Akil" - the village of the future - to give impetus to international activities and co-operation. Widespread optimism for this project is based upon the readiness of the Kirghis people for reform, their high level of education, and their faith in support from the international community.

The International Year of the Family is regarded in Kyrgyzstan as a year of intensive international exchange. A group of scientists will examine problems concerning the Kirghis family and its relationship to the market system. This group will also study the psychology of market relations in the Kirghis tradition, and the social impact of market relations in advanced countries.

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM *FOCAL POINT*

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The IYF in Lao will be observed in the context of existing initiatives related to pressing issues facing the country and to measures being undertaken in respect to international plans of action.

Preventive health care services for women and children, especially immunization, are still insufficient. Village sanitation and water supplies are still very limited.

The Government subscribes to the principles set forth by WHO/UNICEF to introduce "Health for all by the year 2000", and has also made important international commitments to primary health care, and to the 1990 World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.

The Lao Women's Union and the Ministry of Health strongly support moves to promote and implement population activities. This policy covers various questions, including the reduction of infant mortality and the education of people to understand the advantages of family planning. The Lao Women's Union has been increasing its activities in this area.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The Ministry of Health will dedicate itself to achieving four major national objectives by 1996. These are:

(a) To reduce the infant mortality rate by 20%. This decline will be monitored by examining mothers attending immunization sessions;
(b) To reduce the maternal mortality rate;
(c) To eradicate malnutrition among children under 5 years old to less than 40% by 1996; and

(d) To provide access to safe water for one million rural people, thus bringing the total national access to pure water to 40%. By the year 2000, the goal is to achieve universal access to safe water and sanitation.

The major objectives of the Ministry of Education are to increase primary school attendance for 6-8 year old children to 75% by 1996, and to 100% by the end of the century.

LATVIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The IYF in Latvia is seen as a mechanism to address serious problems confronting families in the country. In this respect, plans for observance of the Year are to be undertaken to complement existing and emerging legislative and policy initiatives to support families in Latvia.

During recent years, the family situation in Latvia has deteriorated. The birth-rate continues to drop while the death rate continues to climb. The current birth rate is significantly below the rate of replacement. In 1992, the number of deaths exceeded the number of births. Marriages have decreased during recent years and the number of divorces is increasing. This situation is aggravated by increasing unemployment because of the economic recession.

In light of these factors, numerous projects are under way to improve the social situation for families in Latvia. Recommendations are being prepared for 1993 and 1994 for amendments to legislation concerning family-related legal issues; improvement of the demographic situation; and of the standards of living; as well as reforms in health and infrastructure development. Maternal and child health policies and supports are considered a top priority. In addition, the Government has introduced a system of allowances to assist families with children, including: birth grants, maternity benefits, children's allowances and family allowances.

The plans of the Ministry of Welfare, Labour and Health include programmes for family planning in order to improve the health prospects of newborn children and to reduce the number of abortions. The Second Congress of Latvian Doctors and the First Congress of Latvian Gynecologists took place in June 1993; their resolutions will be incorporated in this programme for families.

In accordance with projects by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, a study of the birth-rate and family development, as well as the social conditions of the elderly, will take place in 1993-1995.

A plan of action has been elaborated to observe the International Year of the Family. In October 1993 a special seminar took place in Riga, at the invitation of the Government and involving the United Nations Secretariat for the International Year of the Family and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health of Finland. The IYF and programmes concerning it will be publicized through the media - TV, radio and the press.

However, to improve the national family situation, Latvia badly needs international support, especially concerning health care. Information regarding social services must be improved and made available, and additional training for social workers, especially those involved with family problems, is seen as being essential.

LEBANON

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
The National Committee for the International Year of the Family Ministry of Social Affairs Beirut	Mrs. Nimaat Kanaan General Director of Ministry of Social Affairs Vice-President the National Committee for the IYF Ministry of Social Affairs Beirut

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NATIONAL ACTION

Following the United Nations Africa and Western Asia IYF Preparatory Meeting in Tunis, Tunisia, a detailed report was prepared, including a recommendation to request the Cabinet to approve the issuing of a memorial stamp on the occasion of the International Year of the Family, and to use the funds from the sale of the stamp to sponsor IYF activities in Lebanon.

In addition to the establishment of Lebanon's IYF National Committee, it was agreed that specialized sub-committees be formed:

(i) For research and studies;
(ii) For seminars and conferences;
(iii) For information and publicity through the media; and
(iv) For administration and financial issues.

In addition, the Family Planning Association of Lebanon is providing valuable assistance for IYF activities; its premises have been offered for the meetings of the Sub-Committees.

Other activities initiated by the National Committee for IYF observances include TV and radio programmes; publicity campaigns; media coverage of all IYF activities and cooperative ventures with the Ministry of Information.

Other activities proposed for the Year include:

a) Editing and publishing existing studies;
b) Conducting a study on the occasion of the IYF about the situation of the family in Lebanon;
c) Considering the need for, and possibility of, conducting additional research.

LEBANON -2

Issues for consideration in the context of the Year through assemblies and national conferences include:

a) Economic status of the family, particularly in respect to habitation; income; budget and job opportunities, notably for women;

b) Effects of immigration on families;

c) Families in occupied territories;

d) Family health;

e) The elderly in Lebanon;

f) Education and the family;

g) Effect of war on children and youth, particularly in respect to such concerns as disability and orphaned children; and

h) Family values after the war.

LESOTHO

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The IYF in Lesotho will be observed against the backdrop of broader societal and developmental issues. The situation of women in Lesotho is a priority focus for the Year. While it is the woman who remains at home, she often cannot make any decisions, and must seek permission from her husband, or the male head of the family, even in emergency situations.

Lesotho relies heavily on agriculture and remittances from men who work in South African mines. Deforestation and population increase also compound pressing economic issues.

The Lesotho Government has implemented policies intended to improve the lives and welfare of disadvantaged members of the family; including the creation of the Bureau of Women and Youth, which was set up to involve women and children in the development of the country through various projects, such as: home gardening, pig raising, poultry, and other small-scale rural enterprises.

To arbitrate in family, or clan clashes, and for rehabilitation of disadvantaged women and children, the Department of Social Affairs was established and lodged in the Ministry of Employment.

A Committee was to be set up, co-ordinated by the Department of Social Welfare of the Ministry of Employment and composed of several other Ministries, to devise a programme of action based on the final report of the Tunis Regional Preparatory Meeting and of other United Nations documents.

LIBERIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The International Year of the Family will be observed in Liberia as an opportunity to strengthen efforts to alleviate pressures on families and the society arising out of numerous serious problems being experienced in the country. In this respect, the Government has indicated a primary concern with the stand-still prevailing in all social development activities as a result of prolonged civil conflict, including the implementation of a comprehensive population policy for social and economic development.

Despite the limitations imposed by the situation in the country, the Government has indicated its readiness to undertake activities at the national level in observance of the IYF. A key concern for development within families is the changing role of the family as the basic unit in providing a positive environment for all family members.

The Government has established mechanisms to improve the role and status of women which it hopes could be reoriented for implementation as a concrete measure toward improving the situation in families. Health issues figure prominently in current concerns, notably in respect to maternal and child morbidity and mortality.

Other priority issues identified in the context of the Year include:

(i) high rates of fertility owing to parental insecurity regarding the supports available in old age;

(ii) high rates of pregnancy among youth with resulting negative impacts such as higher abortion rates, early marriage and school drop-out.

LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
General People's Committee for Social Security National Committee for the IYF Tripoli	Mr. Xabad Allattif Alssitiwi Chairman of the National Committee for IYF and General Director of the Information and Documentation Center Amanat Alajnat Al Shaabiya Alamah Lil Ialam Wa Alphapakafa Tripoli

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NATIONAL ACTION

A National Committee has been formed for the preparation of the International Year of the Family. The National Committee is headed by the General People's Committee for Social Security, and its members include representatives from the Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Co-operation, the General People's Committees for Education, Health, Vocational Training, Information and Culture, the Libyan Arab Society for Social Defense and the Libyan Arab Society for the Family.

The National Committee has held a number of meetings concerning the preparation for the IYF. It has formulated a programme of work covering the periods 1992, 1993, and 1994, containing a series of activities and procedures that include:

(i) Lectures, debates and workshops around the IYF;
(ii) Legislative measures dealing with the family at the national level;
(iii) Preparation for the formation of a permanent forum to deal with the issues of the family; and
(iv) Convening of meetings locally, and participating in international conferences dealing with the family.

Moreover, the Secretariat of the General People's Committee for Social Security proposes convening an International Summit on the Family, in 1997, and the elaboration of an International Charter on the Rights of the Family.

LITHUANIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ministry of Social Welfare
Government of the Republic of Lithuania
A Vivulskio 11
2693 Vilnius

FOCAL POINT

Minister
Ministry of Social Welfare
Government of the Republic of Lithuania
A Vivulskio 11
2693 Vilnius

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government indicated in 1992 that the legislation of the Republic of Lithuania has established social guarantees for motherhood and childhood. The Government allocated financial assistance to vulnerable and large families as well as for orphans and those without bread-winners. Extra guarantees for employment and employment security, including maternity leave and some other incentives, are provided to women bringing up their children in the transition to a market economy. In co-operation with various social institutions, the Government will seek to reduce the number of orphans brought up in State orphanages. Pursuing this policy, the Government encourages orphan adoption and guardianship. Family-style orphanages for 5-10 children have already been established and given State support. The Government is giving increasing attention to the promotion of children and family rights in the context of the International Year of the Family.

Special initiatives are being undertaken in the context of the Year under the direction of a multi-sectoral national coordinating committee for the IYF. Members of the committee are drawn from various ministries, organizations or academic bodies with an interest in family issues. Elements of the national plan include initiatives in:

a) Maternal and child health;
b) Education and public awareness;
c) Research on family issues;
d) Families and crime prevention;
e) Children's services and publications;
f) Nutrition and health promotion;
g) Women in family and society.

The Government has also expressed interest in initiatives to develop family-based micro-enterprises as a further impetus to economic and technological development in the country.

At the invitation of the Government, special planning sessions were conducted in 1993 involving the United Nations IYF Secretariat and the National Research and Development Centre for Welfare and Health of Finland.

LUXEMBOURG

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Comité luxembourgeois de coordination pour l'Année Internationale de la Famille S.E.M. Fernand Boden, Président Ministre de la Famille et de la Solidarité 14, avenue de la Gare L-2819 Luxembourg	M. Mill Majerus Coordonnateur luxembourgeois de L'AIF Ministère de la Famille et de la Solidarité 14, avenue de la Gare L-2819 Luxembourg

NATIONAL ACTION

The Minister for the Family initiated the establishment of the Luxembourg Committee for the organization of the IYF. This Committee comprises around 40 members, who either represent public and private family organizations or are recognized for their professional expertise. Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess Josephine-Charlotte has assumed the honorary presidency of the Committee. Two co-ordinators were appointed - one at the national level, and another to ensure international liaison.

In addition, there is the Luxembourg Association for the Organization of the IYF, which is mainly concerned with financing IYF activities from both public resources and private funds.

The activities of the Committee are many and varied. To reach out to families, to listen to them, to understand their needs and actively involve them, numerous initiatives and activities have been developed at the local and regional levels. The Committee intends to use the media as much as possible to publicize and promote the IYF.

The Committee has set up eight working groups to help prepare and organize the IYF in specific areas. These are:

Group 1 - Awareness and public relations: This group is responsible for publicizing the IYF and the use of the IYF logo.

Group 2 - Cultural and artistic activities: These activities range from photographic exhibitions on family life to the organization of family concerts and artistic and theatre productions.

Group 3 - Training and promotion: This group is organizing a series of public lectures by well-known speakers on subjects relating to the family. Two international congresses have been planned: (i) from 16-18 December 1993, the European Congress on Personal Counselling and Marriage Guidance; and (ii) from 12-15 May 1994, the European Meeting of FEECA-FICPM.

Group 4 - Socio-political action for the family: The group aims to publish a family code and a report on the situation of families and family policy, to conduct local activities promoting a better family environment, and to concern itself with housing questions for the family, etc. To implement this programme, the group has been split into two sub-groups - (i) a group responsible for a national political action programme; and (ii) one responsible for socio-political action at the local level.

Group 5 - Publication of "In Familie leben" (Living in a Family): This group is drafting a brochure dealing with family life and family problems, based on real-life accounts.

Group 6 - The task of the group is publication of a new booklet for young couples, dealing mainly with psychological, legal and other matters affecting couples, and is meant primarily for those taking marriage preparation courses.

Group 7 - In-depth discussions on the family: The group analyses and identifies the fundamental family values and provides arguments to support the revival of families.

Group 8 - Youth information booklet: "Your Rights and Duties from 12 to 18 years old".

The Committee has produced a summary of the programmed projects; a linen sachet with the IYF logo; pins, stickers and other promotional items; and a booklet on family and drugs.

As an introduction to the IYF, the National Committee organized a Family Festival in the streets of d'Esch-sur-Alzette with more than 10,000 participants and representation from over 70 local and national associations. The event mobilized media attention for the Year and generated funds to be used to support family-related projects.

Special projects for the IYF include:

a) Mobilizing public awareness through a special stamp issue, calendar, posters, publication of two brochures and observance of 15 May, the International Day of Families;

b) Cultural and artistic activities such as a photographic exhibit on family life, family concerts, production on adult/child relations, painting exposition, and a production "*Music en famille - Familles en musique*";

c) Training and related activities such as a conference "Familjeforum", regional family meetings in five locations around the country; an International Congress, in May 1994; a youth conference; and publications;

d) Policy discussions, including publication of family code and elaboration of a charter of the Luxembourg Family, as well as a programme of action at the local and national levels.

MADAGASCAR

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Comité pour la Survie et le Développement de la famille (CSDF) Antananarivo	Ministère de la population, de la Jeunesse et des Sports Antananarivo

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NATIONAL ACTION

The Government's *Comité pour la Survie et le Développement de la Famille* (CSDF: Committee for the Survival and Development of the Family) works with NGOs concerned with the IYF.

Non-governmental organizations concerned with family services and rights in Madagascar (such as the Malagasy Organization for Parents Education: TEZA) have expressed interest in convening special meetings and undertaking selected projects for the International Year of the Family. For example, TEZA organized a debate on improving relations between parents and children, and on the problem of caring for ageing parents.

MALAWI

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Community Services P/B 330 Capital City Lilongwe 3	Ms. E.J. Kalyati Principle Secretary Ministry of Community Services P/B 330 Capital City Lilongwe 3

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government has set up a Task Force to examine the ways and means to plan preparatory activities for the observance of the International Year of the Family. This Task Force is now being co-ordinated by the Family, Health and Welfare Sub-Committee (of the National Commission on Women in Development). Progress has included identifying an IYF theme for Malawi - "Family: the Heart of a Healthy, Wealthy Nation". The National Commission on Women and Development, under the aegis of the Ministry of Community Services, will also contribute to the IYF and involve women's organizations in the process.

Malawi has no specific policy on the family *per se*; however, there are policies that target individual family members, such as children, mothers, disabled persons, and the rural poor. Such policies include the following:

(1) Health care - to improve maternal health, maternity care, child health, etc.;
(2) Economic concerns - small loans for assistance to those in difficulties, e.g., single-parent households, etc.;
(3) Housing policy - through the Department of Housing, it is possible to obtain low-cost building materials for housing construction in rural areas;
(4) Food security programmes - aid poor families by granting them farm materials on loan;
(5) Water and sanitation - increased access to safe water and good sanitation;
(6) Population policy - measures to protect the young people; to provide parent education; to campaign against AIDS; etc.;
(7) Also, plans are in place to introduce maternity leave; to raise the level of literacy; to introduce bursaries for girls; and to protect orphans.

MALAYSIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Population and Family
Development Board of the
Prime Ministry Department
Jababan Perdana Menteri
Jalan Dato Onn
50502 Kuala Lumpur

FOCAL POINT

Director General
National Population and Family
Development Board, Ministry of National
Unity and Social Development
12 B Jalan Raja Laut
P.O. Box 10416, 50712 Kuala Lumpur

NATIONAL ACTION

In Malaysia, the family has been of major concern in national policies, as an integral element of its long-term development strategy. The Government of Malaysia has formulated a National Development Policy to enable the country to become fully developed by the year 2020, including emphasis on retaining the family unit as the central element in realizing Malaysia's social development.

Preparatory Measures

The Second Outline Perspective Plan (OPP2) for 1991-2000 stresses that family development will continue to be emphasized and the provision of counselling services will be one of the main activities used to achieve this.

At present, only a few statutes relate to the family, but several provisions exist within different laws, such as the 1991 Child Protection Act; the Islamic Family Law; the Law against Trafficking in Children; the 1976 Marriage and Divorce Act; and the National Policy on Women. Most of these laws focus only on those families where children are present, and do not include aged family members or children alone, etc. Thus, the formulation of a National Family Policy was deemed essential. Such a policy should ensure that economic forces and rapid social changes do not adversely affect the quality of family life.

Government and NGO Programmes on the Family: A comprehensive programme for family development has been undertaken by groups both from the Government and from non-government organizations, which includes providing an integrated service to improve family health, family welfare, child care and education. These programmes comprise:

(i) Family life education: Aspects of family relationships and health have been incorporated into the school curriculum with emphasis on the value of marriage, child-bearing and child-rearing.

ii) Media: The press has occasionally highlighted issues relating to the family. Radio and TV should play a greater role in broadcasting information on family issues to reach a wider public, particularly to those who are illiterate.

(iii) Pre-marital courses: Some States have introduced courses for Muslim couples who wish to marry. These courses, designed to ensure that parties to a marriage are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities, will be introduced for all people in all States.

(iv) Parenting skills: Some programmes, which introduce parenting skills for young couples, will be increased and introduced to all communities.

(v) Informal education: There are also programmes that deal with raising awareness of various family issues through lectures and debates.

(vi) Family counselling: Counselling and advisory services have been implemented by the Government and NGOs for individuals at various ages to train them in specific skills necessary in married and family life.

(vii) Crisis centres: A few crisis centres have been set up by the Government and NGOs to provide shelter for victims of family violence.

(viii) Training programmes: These programmes have been organized for counsellors, social workers, police officers and voluntary workers to equip them to handle all kinds of family problems.

(ix) National Family Day: The annual Family Day, celebrated on 11 November each year since 1990, has been initiated by the Government at national and local levels to highlight the role of the family.

(x) Research: Sociological research on the family, such as the National Family Life Survey, has been conducted and more research is underway to provide the basis for formulating a National Family Policy.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Measures specific for the IYF in Malaysia will include:

(a) A Working Committee chaired by the Director-General, National Population and Family Development Board (NPFDB), has been set up to develop a national programme for IYF and the required preparatory activities. Participation of private and voluntary agencies in IYF preparation has been initiated and increasingly blended with plans of Government agencies;

(b) Family Workshops on various family issues were organized in 1993 and six main areas identified: (1) Social - health, education and welfare; (ii) Culture and unity; (iii) Economy - poverty and economic development; (iv) Environment; (v) Law and policy; and (vi) The Family;

(c) Information campaign: This campaign was launched to inform the public of the IYF proclamation, its themes, objectives and priorities. The campaign theme is "The Happy Family";

(d) A national seminar dealing with the vision of the Malaysian family by the year 2020 is planned for early 1994;

(e) Community projects for all family members will be organized throughout the country; and

(f) An exhibition, "Family and Resources", is planned to be held at the national level.

MALDIVES

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Health and Welfare Ghaazee Building Ameeru Ahmed Magu Malé	Ministry of Health and Welfare Ghaazee Building Ameeru Ahmed Magu Malé

NATIONAL ACTION

National coordination of IYF activities is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health and Welfare in consultation with the Ministries of Planning and the Environment, Health, Education, Foreign Affairs and Atolls Administration, the Department of Women's Affairs and the Attorney-General's Office, as well as with various non-governmental organizations, including those representing parents and teenagers.

Programmes and events for the IYF

It is felt that many problems relating to the family are due to misconceptions and poor information. It is necessary to enhance public awareness, using the media for this purpose. Prior to launching the activities for 1994, studies were to be carried out on certain social problems of direct concern to the family. These include child abuse, wife abuse, marital problems, poverty and the impact of divorce on the family. A study was also to be conducted on the effects of macro-economic change on family life.

Contraceptives need to be made available to parents as part of a family planning programme. Close co-operation will be established between the Ministry of Health, which could provide the contraceptives, and the Ministry of Atolls Administration, which would be responsible for their distribution to the outer Atolls.

Among other major programmes are those that would introduce family life studies as part of the curriculum. Marriage counselling needs to be introduced in order to avoid unwanted marriages and family problems which arise due to such marriages.

A social security-type system would be introduced for the benefit of the elderly to ensure a means of sustaining themselves in time of need.

A review of existing legislation concerning the family would be conducted to ensure equal rights between men and women. There is also an urgent need to enact legislation dealing with child abuse, as existing laws do not cover the matter adequately.

Arrangements would be made for the voices of social groups, with an interest in the family, to be heard directly by the concerned Government authorities.

Priority issues identified by the Government in the context of the Year include:

(1) High rates of population growth undermining the quality of life in the country, including pressure on the environment;

(2) Continued emphasis on literacy and education programmes;

(3) Strengthening of programmes in education and development which are still in the formative stages;

(4) High rates of maternal mortality, particularly in the Atolls where access to health care remains an issue;

(5) Early marriage and child bearing;

(6) Social problems associated with the erosion of traditional extended family systems, such as the supports that might otherwise be available to children;

(7) Positive developments will continue to be built upon, including: universalization of education; high rates of literacy; immunization; high rates of breast feeding; legislation and plans of action on the protection of the rights of children; continued improvement in life expectancy levels.

MALTA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Hon. Dr. Louis Galea
Minister & Committee President
Rev. Professor Charles Vella
Chairperson, Malta National
Committee for the IYF
Ministry for Home Affairs and
Social Development
Republic Street
Valletta

or c/o Fondazione Centro Romaello
Del Monte Tabor, Via Olgettina
Milan, Italy

FOCAL POINT

Mr. George Vella
Malta National Committee for the IYF
Ministry for Home Affairs and
Social Development
Casa Leoni
476 St. Joseph High Rd.
Sta Venera

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Government of Malta's commitment to the welfare of the family is evidenced by its involvement in the International Year of the Family. In November 1991, the Minister of Home Affairs and Social Development appointed the National IYF Committee, which groups together government and non-governmental agencies involved in family issues. The Committee's aim comes within the declared United Nations principles and objectives for the IYF.

The Committee intends to organize its activities not for, but with families through several Commissions which are co-ordinated by a national IYF Secretariat. The National Committee now comprises the following specialized Commissions:

(1) Family study and research: Composed of researchers, social workers and family members, this Commission has undertaken a research programme on the Maltese family. The overall objective is to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the resources of the Maltese family in the contemporary socio-economic scenario, including how it acts and is acted upon by external and internal factors.

(2) Family and Social Work: This Commission will review existing social services and their integration with families; explore ways and means to disseminate information on services; the study of existing legislation; the

provision of a data base on existing services and the involvement of helping professionals in IYF.

(3) Family and Education: This Commission focuses on both formal and informal education, including the roles of parents as educators, and will prepare an education programme for families and all school grades. Public education on the themes of the Year will also be taken up by the Commission.

(4) Family and Media: Families are the centre of this Commission through media information. The media - radio, TV and the press - will be used to promote human values, and to publicize the IYF. Selected activities include: a teleseries on the Maltese family, documentaries and video cassettes, publications, posters and televised public service announcements. An educational seminar will also be held for members of the media.

(5) Family and Art: Art is a form of communication for families and young people; thus, the involvement of visual artists, musicians, etc., will be sought, and activities will include art exhibitions, concerts, and celebrations of various types.

(6) Family and Youth: Young people will be involved through music, art, sports, voluntary work, etc., to promote activities to celebrate the IYF; additional attention will be given to young people with special needs - persons with disabilities, drug addicts, juvenile problems, AIDS.

From the outset, the Malta Government responded positively to international plans for the IYF, especially through hosting the United Nations Europe and North America Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family and the World NGO Forum Launching the Year.

A number of national seminars have been organized by the National Committee on various topics relating to the IYF, including the rights, duties and needs of families, such as access to welfare services, education, etc. The booklet on the IYF, published by the United Nations, has been translated and published in Maltese, and will serve as a guide for the national observances.

Legislative review and reform have also been undertaken in the context of IYF preparations and observance. The Government has announced, in this connection, the coming into force of The Family Law (Act XXI, 1993) with far-reaching amendments to the Maltese Civil Code regulating the relationships of married couples. The Law represents a consensus on the necessity of recognizing the equal status of husband and wife, as partners and as parents. The amendments have eliminated the concept of husband as "head of household" and that of paternal authority. The competence of the Court system has also been broadened and a mediatory role introduced for judges in some matters. The law also extends the legal rights of children to be heard in family matters concerning them.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The following are some of the many activities for the IYF being undertaken in Malta:

(i) The IYF Official Opening, on 1 January 1994, with a special message of the President, combined with observance of the traditional annual January Family Feast;

(ii) The findings of the research projects will be presented;

(iii) An awards programme for families;

(iv) Formation of a National Council for the Family, to advise on family policy, and to promote national means for family support;

(v) A Family Day, in all the local Patrons Saints "feasts";

(vi) A campaign based on health issues for families;

(vii) Publication of a Newsletter on the IYF, information leaflets and publicity through the press;

(viii) An illustrated 1994 Calendar for Families;

(ix) Special promotion of the IYF in pre-marriage courses;

(x) Co-ordination with the United Nations, the International Institute for Ageing (Valletta), and other international, governmental and non-governmental organizations.

MAURITANIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Hon. Ms. Marième Mint Ahmed Aicha Secretary of State for Women's Affairs Committee President Commission Nationale pour l'Année Internationale de la Famille Secrétariat d'Etat à la Condition Féminine Nouakchott	Mr. Mohamed Ali ould Deddo Chairman Commission Nationale pour l'Année Internationale de la Famille Secrétariat d'Etat à la Condition Feminine Nouakchott

NATIONAL ACTION

A National Committee including representatives of all departments concerned with family affairs was set up, and all necessary measures were taken to establish regular contacts between its members. The Committee was assigned the task of carrying out all appropriate studies and inquiries relative to the social, economic, cultural and health situation of families in Mauritania. It was further asked to prepare a series of activities in a variety of areas - information, culture, general guidance, and economic and social affairs.

For this purpose, the Committee has divided itself into three subcommittees:

(1) A subcommittee for "Research and Publications", responsible for collecting all relevant statistical information concerning the family and preparing a guide on the family in Mauritania;

(2) A subcommittee for "Information", which has been asked to collaborate with the national media to secure ample coverage of the programme; and

(3) A subcommittee on "Finances", responsible for mobilizing financial support for activities connected with the preparations for and celebration of the IYF, for which purpose it will be making multiple contacts with all competent partners.

Regional committees will be set up in each region of the country. Their role will complement the mission of the National Committee, and they will be further strengthened by the regional representatives of the Secretariat of State.

The National Committee has carried out a public education campaign with audio-visual support, the purpose of which was to explain the importance and the objectives of the IYF.

MAURITANIA - 2

Among other activities within the National Programme for the IYF are:

(i) Publication of a guide on the Mauritanian family, reflecting the realities of family life as they emerge from the statistics on school attendance, mothers' health, children's health, nutrition, etc.; and

(ii) Organization of a national seminar on the family, with a view to diagnosing problems, defining priorities and finding appropriate solutions.

The objectives of the activities are: to focus the attention of national public opinion on the realities of family life and the need for rapid action; to elaborate a strategy for serving needy families which subsequently can be adopted by the competent departments; to revise existing policies in family matters and propose appropriate alternative policies; to gather as much information as possible, with a view to its use for the benefit of families; and to determine, with the support of specialists, what social phenomena are responsible for undermining the equilibrium of family life.

An extensive information campaign was undertaken in 1993 to create public awareness of all aspects of the problems confronting the Mauritanian family. It is also hoped to draw the attention of responsible officials and decision-makers to the importance of these questions, and to mobilize the family itself in appropriate ways.

Elements of the ongoing awareness-building and information scheme to be conducted throughout 1994 include:

Twelve nationally televised round tables dealing with different subjects. Each round table is to last 40 minutes, moderated by four specialists; rural radio transmissions for 15 minutes every two weeks; one weekly F.M. broadcast lasting 20 minutes; one weekly standard broadcast during the first six months of the year and twice-monthly broadcasts for the rest of the year to discuss a number of subjects with competent officials, carry out interviews and provide guidance. A competition for the independent press is to be conducted to select the best newspaper article on the subject of the family and a prize will be awarded. Supplements dealing with problems of the family will be included in other publications.

There is also to be one lecture per month, and a discussion every three months involving specialists. Posters are to be put in circulation on the subject of the International Year of the Family and placed in public places and on public transport vehicles.

The special office established within the Family Protection Directorate will evaluate on a quarterly basis the steps taken to create awareness and provide information, and will draw appropriate conclusions on the basis of its experience in carrying out these activities.

In order to provide the country with appropriate legislation and to fill the gaps observed at the time when the existing laws were revised, a national Committee of legal specialists was set up to revise the relevant sections of the Mauritanian Civil Code. In this connection, the Family Code is one of the most important texts, in that it has a direct effect on the behaviour of members of society and constitutes an impediment to violence that might menace the existence of the family or cause family members to lose their collective or individual rights.

A technical commission was therefore asked to draft a new ordinance on civil status in the country. The resulting text was submitted to an inter-ministerial committee for examination. The draft consists of 330 articles in four books dealing with: Marriage and Divorce; Alimony; Legal Capacity and Representation; and Wills and Legacies.

Given the need to have a legal text governing the protection of children, the National Committee responsible for preparing the International Year of the Family will try to accelerate implementation of the measures already taken to establish an appropriate legal framework which will guarantee children adequate protection in the health sphere, in social, legal and administrative matters, and also in relation to penal sanctions. A Commission has been requested to draft an appropriate ordinance concerning the protection of children, in particular those who are vulnerable.

Measures will also be taken to make the law known to the public, including: distribution of copies of the law to all courts in the Moughataa; organization of an information campaign in various media; popularization of the content of the relevant laws to make them accessible to all social levels of the population; insistence on strict observance of the law in marriage ceremonies, measures for divorce, etc.

The Government has also undertaken to create a national non-governmental organization to support the least privileged families. The new association would be a service organization with the mission of assisting those families who have little or no income. The organization would provide an appropriate focus for the assistance provided by charitable organizations and business circles interested in social action and humanitarian affairs.

The Government has identified the need to create a fund for activities aimed at preparing and celebrating the International Year of the Family to be supported by: national private enterprises; popular social organizations and parties; ministry budgets; international bodies and others.

The Government also proposes to introduce small pilot projects limited to specific experimental activities designed to support the family. In this sense, they differ both structurally and organizationally from projects which have substantial material, human and staff resources. These projects could take the form of cooperatives, bringing together a certain number of families who would pool their limited resources with a view to satisfying their consumer needs, and thereby profit from services performed for the benefit of the collective.

Both theoretical and practical observations have shown that the Mauritanian family is confronted by a variety of social, economic and cultural problems. In the light of this situation, the National Committee considers it necessary to launch a field study; the results of which will assist the competent authorities to put appropriate programmes of economic, social and cultural development in hand.

The Ministry of Education is expected to send a circular letter to teaching and training establishments at all levels, implementing a course on the International Year of the Family in those institutions. A day will be set aside for this special course, and supervisors will prepare a report, indicating in particular its effects on pupils. Similar measures will be applied by other Ministries which are responsible for certain teaching centres.

The competent authorities responsible for celebrations of special days connected with the theme of the family have been contacted, with a view to developing a programme on the family and allocating funds to certain activities.

Other observances include: the issuing of postage stamps; organization of a drawing exhibition; organization of symbolic activities. Women who are heads of household represent 40 per cent of the total, and the National Committee for the International Year of the Family will accordingly give particular attention to this group. Some individuals will be selected and honoured at special commemorative meetings organized for the purpose. Similar gifts will be distributed on these occasions. Symbolic gifts featuring the logo of the International Year of the Family will be broadly distributed. An information campaign is to be organized in parallel with other celebrations, with a view to creating public awareness and distributing gifts during the various religious and national festivities.

MAURITIUS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Co-ordinating
Committee for IYF
Ministry of Women's Rights,
Child Development and Family Welfare
Edith Cavell Street
Port Louis

FOCAL POINT

Mrs. L. Dubois
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Women's Rights,
Child Development and Family Welfare
Edith Cavell Street
Port Louis

NATIONAL ACTION

The Republic of Mauritius, a multi-racial and multi-cultural country, in accordance with the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the International Year of the Family, and through its Ministry of Women's Rights, Child Development and Family Welfare, is actively engaged in activities to observe the IYF. Various activities have been held, or are being planned.

It is proposed for 1994 to increase public awareness by publishing and distributing monthly bulletins on family-related issues, which would include a synopsis of papers that were presented at the various seminars, and the resulting recommendations.

To prepare for the IYF, a National Co-ordinating Committee has been set up to plan, stimulate and co-ordinate activities of relevant ministries and non-governmental organizations. The Committee met and defined the plans which it has set itself to adopt within the limit of budgetary provisions. The Committee has approved a series of projects and activities which various ministries and organizations have planned for 1994.

The Committee has conducted campaigns to arouse the interest of family organizations, trade unions, social development organizations, older persons' organizations, and those for people with disabilities, youth and children, and raise awareness of the concept of the IYF and its emblem. These groups will be addressed through meetings, seminars, workshops and debates. A parallel publicity campaign will be directed towards the public through the media - the press, radio, and television.

Measures will also be taken to co-ordinate and supplement activities of the various ministries and NGOs which already work for the family and its members.

MAURITIUS - 2

At the beginning of 1993, the National Co-ordinating Committee held a press conference to inform the public and the media on actions the Committee proposes to take for the observance and celebration of the IYF. At the same time, a poster depicting the IYF emblem was distributed. A series of seminars have been planned, some of which have already taken place, with a view to preparing a national plan of action. The topics of these seminars include:

(a) Role and Contribution of NGOs in Promoting Family Welfare;
(b) Impact of Industrialization on the Family;
(c) Integration of Persons with Disabilities within the Family and Society;
(d) Role, Responsibilities and Rights of Senior Citizens within the Family and Society;
(e) Development of Strategies by the Public Sector for the Welfare of the Family and its Individual Members.

As Mauritius embarks on its second phase of industrialization, numerous problems are emerging, often resulting in the dislocation and disorientation of families. A study is being completed on the real causes of conflict within the family.

MEXICO

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo
Integral de la Familia (DIF)
Señor Eduardo Montano Resa
Director General
Avenida Emiliano Zapato 340
C.P. 33001 Mexico D.F.

FOCAL POINT

Sistema Nacional para el Desarrollo
Integral de la Familia (DIF)
Avenida Emiliano Zapato 340
C.P. 33001 Mexico D.F.

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

For the Government of Mexico, the proclamation of 1994 as the International Year of the Family was an opportunity to present, in an integrated form, the programme it was conducting in all spheres of Federal executive authority.

Mexico already possesses an institution specifically devoted to the support of the family, namely the National System for the Overall Development of the Family (DIF). Mexican institutions have adopted a global approach concerning the family. The policy pursued by the DIF consists in providing a full range of welfare services designed to foster and strengthen the family.

The DIF is running numerous programmes, including one aimed at improving nutritional standards and supplementing the family budgets of the severely marginalized sector of the population. The Mexican Government, convinced of the vital national importance of a strong and solid family structure, regards social policy in terms of an overall focus on the family.

The family has an important role in the education process, and the national education system includes in its structure provisions for the involvement of parents. Various programmes are also being implemented in pre-school, primary and secondary education, the informal education of the indigenous population, etc.

At the national level, there are social security institutions, such as the Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) and the State Workers' Social Security Institute (ISSTE), both of which are promoting family health and integration, and improving national standards of living through various initiatives related to social welfare, cultural development, sports and physical recreation.

In family matters, the policy of the Office of the Attorney General of the Republic is governed by its responsibility to respect the Mexican Constitution and rule of law. The Ministry of Labour and Social Security monitors and promotes labour legislation to assist families through measures aimed at protecting workers' employment rights.

One of the chief concerns of the Ministry of Social Development is to tackle social problems which are sufficiently widespread to threaten the stability of families, aggravated as they are by conditions of extreme poverty.

The social policy instrument set up by the Mexican Government to combat poverty and destitution is the National Solidarity Programme, under the Ministry of Social Development. Its activities are directed at three groups - ethnic groups, the very poor and inhabitants of slums. These activities are carried out through (i) social welfare, (ii) support for productive activities and national development, and (iii) support for carrying out services aimed at improving the standards of living.

The health-oriented components of the social policy for families contain the following objectives: (i) fostering health awareness; (ii) ensuring universal access to health-care services; (iii) ensuring prevention of disease and accidents; (iv) family planning programmes; and (v) improving co-ordination between institutions providing welfare services.

In crime prevention, a network of Youth Integration Centres is responsible for implementing a family-oriented policy, to promote health education within the family through information, counselling and training.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The National System for the Overall Development of the Family has been designated as the co-ordinating centre responsible for liaising with the IYF Secretariat. This institution acts as co-ordinator for this event in collaboration with all the relevant Government departments and agencies, as well as the social and private sectors. Various public awareness campaigns have been successfully undertaken on such issues as:

(i) Solidarity;
(ii) Universal vaccination;
(iii) The family - the best common front against drugs; and
(iv) Family planning.

Research is also being conducted, and events held, in connection with the IYF. These include:

(i) The impact of the IMSS family planning programme on perinatal mortality;
(ii) Profile of the Mexican family today;
(iii) Women in rural areas, the environment and health in Mexico;
(iv) Adult and adolescent sexuality.

The National Institute of Statistics, Geography and Information (INEGI) will be preparing a commemorative publication marking the IYF - to be published in 1994 - on the subject of the modern Mexican family.

The Council for Minors will be printing stationery featuring the IYF-1994 logo, and is also planning to hold a seminar on the subject of "Violence, the Family and Crime".

The DIF has undertaken to continue the campaign "Long Live the Family" until 1994, as its contribution to the aims of the IYF.

One national and three regional meetings are being organized by the IMSS with the participation of over 100 family physicians engaged in developing a diagnostic and therapeutic approach to their work in families with problems.

Within the framework of the National Solidarity Programme, municipal, state and regional events are being held on an ongoing basis.

The National Population Council (CONAPO) is planning to include a region-wide radio spot in a programme directed at young people living in particularly difficult conditions.

MONGOLIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The observance of the International Year of the Family in Mongolia is to take place in the context of existing mechanisms, with a view to addressing current issues confronting families. Foremost among current priorities are problems arising out of a period of deep economic crisis experienced in the transition from a centralized, planned economy to a market-oriented economy. Income, production, and living standards are dropping sharply while the cost of living is rising. Nearly 54% of all Mongolian families are urban dwellers; 46% live in rural areas. 20% of those living in cities subsist below the accepted poverty line. A large percentage of all families contain children below 16 years of age. There are insufficient social welfare services for women, and no legal and sex instruction or consultation is available for men and women. The number of divorces has doubled over ten years and the number of fatherless children is increasing markedly.

National machinery for family development: Legal provisions regarding families are in place in Mongolia. The national constitution states that "men and women shall enjoy equal rights in the political, economic, social and cultural fields and in marriage". The State has also enshrined its obligation to protect the interest of the family, motherhood and the child (article 16/11). The State and the Government of Mongolia have carried out certain action programmes. In the State policy, directives on demography, approved by the President, lend support to the family. Many new organizations have been formed to take charge of demographic matters. A permanent committee on demography has been created in the Ministry of Population and Labour. The Population Policy Department of this Ministry is also in charge of family and women's affairs. The Ministry will be in charge of working out a State policy of family development and family law. The Family Law, which is now in force, was adopted in 1977, and proclaims the equality of men and women and includes the prohibition of polygamy.

Programmes and events for IYF

The Government has indicated that the International Year of the Family can be a valuable impetus to their development activities. In particular, it is felt that it will be of immense value to be informed of experience in other countries.

The Mongolian Government has planned the following activities for IYF:

(i) Development of legal principles and consolidation of actions in respect of human rights;

(ii) Extensive work to be done to investigate and analyze the family situation, especially regarding standards of living, social and moral aspects, and causes of crime;

(iii) A programme to help stabilize the family unit;

(iv) The Government has recommended that basic and concrete measures for IYF on family matters be organized on the basis of the varying experience of other countries in the region.

MOROCCO

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Commission Nationale de
Coordination pour
l'Année Internationale de la
Famille (AIF)
Académie du Royaume du Maroc
B.P. 5093, Rabat-Souissi

FOCAL POINT

S.E.M. Mohamed Abied
Ministre de l'Artisanat et des
Affaires Sociales
Rabat

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Government has designated the Ministry of Crafts and Social Affairs as the National Coordinating Body for the Year. In so doing, it has created a National Committee, which includes representatives of:

- concerned departments of the Government;
- NGOs;
- universities and research institutes;
- international organizations represented in Morocco;
- researchers and specialists in family affairs.

The Ministry of Crafts and Social Affairs presented a project for a National Charter of the Moroccan Family, which subsequently has been widely approved in a public discussion and formally introduced at the national level. The National Charter represents a consensus of national bodies concerned with family issues in the country and includes a comprehensive action plan for implementing the principles and objectives of the Charter.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The goals set by the Charter include:

- strengthening legislation for the protection of the family;

- enacting laws guaranteeing equal opportunity to vulnerable population groups, notably disabled persons and orphans;

- striving to improve family living standards and satisfy the needs of each of its members;

- ensuring social rights of the family in the areas of education, health, living, and leisure;
- stressing the right of all families, without discrimination, to benefit from the fields of social and economic development and guaranteeing a fair distribution in this respect;
- ensuring that material and social rights for immigrant families are respected and promote participation of these families in the country's economy;
- disseminating information to families in the areas of health, hygiene, education and the environment;
- guaranteeing successful social integration of citizens facing extreme problems and social exclusion;
- linking development priorities to the genuine needs of families and extending opportunities for them to take part in the tasks of planning, implementation and follow-up.

The work has led to the formulation of a national plan of action entailing specific activities for the observance of the Year at local, national and regional levels. These include activities in the following areas:

1. Educational meetings such as colloquia, conferences and seminars to promote a greater understanding of the needs of families.

2. Awareness and information activities. These will lead to the preparation of radio and television programmes on issues relating to Moroccan families, and to the production of documentary films on the family and media coverage of IYF events. Brochures, posters, books and pamphlets relative to the family will also be issued. Information campaigns will be undertaken on such issues as: women's health awareness, particularly during pregnancy; nutrition; child education in the family; preventative and emergency health care; the problems of vulnerable groups and other issues. Efforts will also be undertaken with the support of experts, to promote and develop the media that service families and children.

3. Studies and research. Sectoral studies on the family will be undertaken. There will also be general academic research on the family, specific studies relating to Moroccan families abroad, and efforts made to strengthen the data available to family researchers in the country. Research papers and studies on family issues will be published and broadly distributed and a periodical developed in the field.

4. Legislative actions, including: reinforcing the legal framework for protection of the family; enforcement of marriage registration procedures and safeguards on the rights and freedoms of both spouses; measures of judiciary in matters related to divorce; international agreements and cooperation for immigrant families; applying labour and social welfare laws to all labour categories publicizing the protections available and provision of Moroccan law and other measures.

5. Infrastructure development, including: using national development plans to assist families; establishing a National Documentation Centre on family matters; cooperation with international and regional bodies; establishing an office for family information, advice and counselling; granting decentralized bodies enough executive prerogative to cope with local needs in a flexible manner; establishing an institution for senior staff training; establishing a committee to seek solutions to beggary; creating national, regional and provincial committees on the protection of vulnerable groups and encouraging the development of parent and guardian associations.

MYANMAR

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Department of Social Welfare
Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief
and Resettlement
Yangon

NATIONAL ACTION

The responsibility for preparations of IYF rests with the Department of Social Welfare.

A National Health Committee has been formed to take progressive steps for promoting health and laying down a national family health policy. The authorities drafted a National Population Policy, which deals with such questions as education and information, status of women, nutrition and legal reforms.

The Government has identified health concerns as a priority issue for families in Myanmar. The Year will complement, therefore, current activities, including those dealt with in The National Health Policy (1993), such as:

(i) To raise the national health level and promote people's physical and mental well-being so as to achieve the goal of "Health for All by the Year 2000"; and

(ii) To follow the national guidelines of the population policy, which includes provisions for:

Health facilities: Specialized hospitals and health centres exist for mothers and children. Most people have access to either a Basic Health Service Worker or to a Voluntary Health Worker and 70% of the villages have a midwife or an auxiliary midwife.

Family Health Care Project: This project is one of the components of several People's Health Plans - I (1978-82), II (1982-86), and III (1986-90) - and the National Health Plan (1990-92), which is specifically designed for the family as a whole.

The following plans were chosen to implement the Family Health Care Project:

(i) Expansion and improved efficiency in maternal and child health care; nutrition monitoring and education; promotion of school health and school meals; health education; immunization and other medical procedures geared to reducing the health problems of mothers and children;

(ii) Reinforcing the staff who deal with maternal and child health care through increased manpower and improved institutional and home care;

(iii) The availability of maternal and child health care in rural areas to be greatly enhanced by more volunteer auxiliary midwives;

(iv) Promoting favourable changes in community health matters, and stressing the importance of health education for mothers;

(v) Monitoring and evaluating the progress and achievements of the project activities will be carried out simply and systematically.

Objectives: The main objective of the family health care project is to (a) reduce the mortality rate due to endemic diseases and conditions that particularly affect mothers and children; (b) extend family health care to the underprivileged sector of the population; and (c) train health workers to provide a higher quality of health care to mothers and children. Monitoring and evaluation of these initiatives in family health takes place at the township, state/division and national levels.

NAMIBIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Health and Social Services Harvey Street Private Bag 13198 Windhoek	Mr. Andreas Guibeb Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health and Social Services Harvey Street Private Bag 13198 Windhoek

NEPAL

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Mr. Govinda Raj Joshi President of the National Committee for the International Year of the Family and Minister for Education, Culture and Social Welfare Tridevi Margi, Keshar Mahal Kathmandu	Mr. Krishna Prasad Khanal Member Secretary Social Service National Coordination Council Samajik Sewa Mandir, P.B. 2948 Lekhnathmarg, Lainchour Kathmandu

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NATIONAL ACTION

To strengthen efforts in preparing for and observing the International Year of the Family, the Government of Nepal has established a National Co-ordinating Committee representing various members of Parliament and NGOs, chaired by the Minister of Education and Culture, under the patronage of the Prime Minister. Under this Committee, the Government has also designated a national focal point for liaison with the different sectors to formulate a national plan of action.

Government Policies Regarding Families: The primary Government concern is population control and family planning through projects such as those for female literacy, and mother and child welfare activities. Specific elements include:

(a) Creation of a social and economic environment conducive to the formation of a small family unit;
(b) Promotion of the development of women through adult literacy and education programmes to help improve the economic status of women and their access to family planning;
(c) Integration of family planning programmes with general health projects;
(d) Promotion of NGOs and other private institutions;
(e) Expansion of welfare and hospital activities for families;
(f) Expansion of health service capabilities for family planning, mother and child health care, and development of women through training activities.

Environment: Nepal's environmental problems are largely due to poverty, an increasing population, and ill-planned urbanization and industrialization. These problems must be faced and dealt with urgently.

Drinking water and Sanitation: Safe and adequate water supplies and minimum sanitation facilities are basic human requirements without which improvement in overall health levels will not be possible. The Government has committed itself to providing safe water supplies throughout Nepal within 10 years. At the same time, the Government will also implement a complementary health and sanitation programme.

Housing and urban development: Most Nepali households lack the most basic facilities. As part of its aim to improve the quality of life for all families in Nepal, the Government is examining ways of coping with the question of housing and urban development.

Education and Culture: The Government realizes the paramount importance of education for the country's development and it is committed to the principle of universal primary education and reduction of the illiteracy rate from 61% to 33% by the year 2000; it will provide free secondary school education in a phased manner.

Health and Nutrition: The Government is committed to ensuring Health for All by the Year 2000. This will be achieved by numerous measures, such as setting up health services in the villages; using traditional medical practitioners to help propagate health and family planning messages; and producing essential medicaments within the country.

Women in Development: Women, who constitute half the population, should participate in Nepal's nation-building task. The Government realizes this and is fully committed to equal participation of women in the development process. Possibilities will be made for women to participate in traditional as well as non-traditional sectors, to have access to all forms of education; laws that discriminate against women will be revised or rescinded.

Children and Development: To create an environment to help children become active and capable future citizens, the Government has declared itself in line with commitments made by Nepal during the 1990 World Summit for Children.

NETHERLANDS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Mrs. C.M.I. Moolhuysen-Fase, Chair
Nationaal Comité voor het Internationaal
Jaar van het Gezin 1994
(National Committee for the IYF - 1994)
Duinweg 1
2585 JT. Den-Haag

Co-ordination at Governmental level
Ambtelijke stuurgroep voor het Internationaal
van het Gezin 1994
Mr. R. Wetselaar, Chair
Ministry of Welfare, Health and
Cultural Affairs
Postbus 3007
2280 MJ. Rijswijk

FOCAL POINT

Nationaal Comité voor het Internationaal
Jaar van het Gezin 1994
Duinweg 1
2585 JT. Den-Haag

NATIONAL ACTION

The decision for the Netherlands to contribute to the International Year of the Family by developing its own programme was based on the United Nations' emphasis on undertaking activities at local, regional and national levels. The Government then sought advice from the Netherlands Council for Family Affairs on implementing the objectives of the IYF. The Council was asked to include, in a report it was preparing on family policy, a special chapter on the IYF. Based on this report, the Netherlands Government formulated a national theme for the IYF, where the emphasis is on the execution of local projects.

Netherlands' society is characterized by a variety of households, and one of them is the family with children. National concern focuses on the educative process and on support families may need to cope successfully with this task. Two policies are the basis for this support: (i) the educational support of the parents and educators, focusing on strengthening their abilities; and (ii) providing facilities for the children themselves.

Activities for the IYF will be carried out at local, regional and national levels, but the stress will be especially on the local level. Within a wider framework of promoting national awareness of the aims and purposes of the IYF, the National Committee has been given a leading theme for its activities, i.e. "Educative support of families in special situations".

After much preparatory work, the Netherlands' National Committee for the IYF 1994 formally started its activities on 23 March 1993. The members of the Committee have been drawn from various social and political backgrounds in the Netherlands. An equal distribution of the sexes has been achieved. Officially, the tasks of this Committee are:

(a) Selection and funding the activities and programmes, which will fit into the theme of the Year;

(b) To encourage the Netherlands public to pay attention to the theme of the IYF;

(c) To engage in additional fund-raising;

(d) To maintain all the contacts on the national and international levels;

(e) To follow-up, in 1995, with publications and a possible conference;

(f) To check for consistency in approach with the administrative steering commission for the IYF that has been established within the Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs.

The National Committee has been provided with a budget of 1.3 million guilders, but it is expected this will be increased by fund-raising. Out of 260 proposals, the Committee has made a preliminary selection of about 30 projects which it intends to fund. The Committee intended to appoint an honorary committee of recommendation for the IYF and to present its programme at the end of 1993.

The departmental administrative commission is responsible for the internal co-ordination within the Ministry of Welfare, Health and Cultural Affairs, and for national and international contacts on a Government level regarding the national implementation of the IYF.

The official launching of the IYF in the Netherlands was planned to include a festive meeting and presentation in The Hague with the release of a published Programme of National Action for the Year.

NEW ZEALAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Rhyl, Lady Jansen of Hamilton Chairperson, Committee for the International Year of the Family 1994 Department of Social Welfare Private Bag 21, Wellington	Mr. John H. Angus, Manager Department of Social Welfare Social Services Policy Division Social Policy Agency Private Bag 21, Wellington

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparations for the International Year of the Family have been advanced. A steering committee, known as the Committee for the International Year of the Family 1994, has been appointed by the Government and is made up of members from different regions of New Zealand. These members reflect rural and urban perspectives, and a range of experiences working with families. The ethnicity of the Committee also reflects the cultural diversity of New Zealand families. The Department called for committees/trust nominees from the wide sector of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the chairperson has been appointed by Cabinet members upon the recommendation of the Minister of Social Welfare. A detailed proposal paper on the IYF was prepared and forwarded to the Government for consideration, at the end of 1992.

Regarding objectives, the Government has determined that its contribution to the International Year of the Family should result in long-term benefits for New Zealand families. The objectives are now to:

(i) Provide an information programme on ways to promote services for families and to provide access for families to those services, across the wide range of programmes available in the Government and voluntary sectors; and

(ii) Reinforce the concept that the family is the principal medium for the obligations and responsibilities of parents towards their children, and the obligations of children towards their parents.

The Steering Committee is working in close liaison with non-governmental organizations, which are planning a rich programme for celebration and observance of the Year. The New Zealand Government has allocated a total of $NZ 3.5 million to the celebration of the IYF. The Steering Committee has also been offered, and will be seeking, further private sponsorship. A substantial amount has also been made available from the

Lottery Grants Board, to establish community projects to be completed in the community in 1994. A trust funding programme has been established and applications solicited.

New Zealand's IYF Committee has developed four themes for the International Year of the Family and these will guide the Year's activities. They are:

1) "Home, Family and the Community", which covers the status and diversity of the family in modern society; roles and contributions to family life, particularly by fathers; issues such as violence in the family; and the role of the family in the neighbourhood and community.

2) "Families Valuing Learning", involving parenting and skills; creating a learning environment in the family as well as valuing education and learning for all family members.

3) "Families and Fun", focusing on making quality time for family recreation as well as activities for whole families and across generations.

4) "Reaching Families", with the aim of identifying services and service gaps; encouraging positive attitudes to seeking help and communicating with families.

A newsletter is being published and an information brochure has been produced. Monthly events are organized to further develop the four core themes chosen by the National IYF Committee.

Plans for the official launching of the IYF in New Zealand included a dawn ceremony on Gisbornes Kaiti Hill, an ancient, sacred site, on New Year's Day.

An international Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, 1-3 December 1994, on the theme of the International Year of the Family, organized by the National Committee for the IYF.

NIGERIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Inter-Sectoral Committee on the International Year of the Family Ministry of Health and Social Services Social Welfare Department 5, Kofo Abayomi Road Victoria Island, Lagos	Ministry of Culture and Social Welfare Social Welfare Department 5, Kofo Abayomi Road Victoria Island, Lagos

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NATIONAL ACTION

Concern for the well-being of the family is not new in Nigeria and the IYF is to be observed in the context of existing initiatives for Nigerian families. The Social Welfare Department has been handling affairs relating to the family since it was created and, to concentrate on issues affecting the family, Nigeria began its own celebrations of Family Week as early as in 1984. Since then, a week has been set aside annually to:

(i) Emphasize the important role of the family in moulding the characters of the individual members, and consequently the character of the nation;
(ii) Initiate self-examination by members of the family concerning how they have each performed their roles and functions within the family to enhance its stability and to curb lack of discipline in society; and
(iii) Accord due recognition to the family as the world's oldest institution.

During the week-long celebration, the programme of activities includes, among others:

(i) A symposium: Topics that will highlight the welfare problems and responsibilities of families are to be chosen for discussion;
(ii) The week usually receives much publicity from the media - press, radio and television;
(iii) Prayers will be said in churches and mosques for Nigerian families;
(iv) The Week is generally rounded up with variety shows, a carnival, etc.

Students: Both secondary and university students are given the opportunity to participate in any debates that are held so as to air their views and aspirations on the family.

An Inter-Ministerial Committee is charged with the responsibility of choosing the theme for each annual Celebration as well as coming up with a programme of activities to mark the week-long celebrations.

Similar arrangements have been made for setting up an Inter-Sectoral Committee on the International Year of the Family. Over the past years, Nigeria has had National and State Planning Committees for the Family Celebration. The Inter-Sectoral National Committee to be set up for the IYF would also have representatives from state ministries as members. It is hoped that this would make for smooth communication and for more effective programme implementation. The Committee would be responsible for formulating a programme of activities for the IYF. Also, sub-committees would be set up to take charge of publicity and awareness campaigns and inform people of the aims and objectives of the celebrations for the Year. Programmes for the celebration are to be carried out at the national, state and local government levels, to enable every individual to participate in, or benefit from, the International Year of the Family.

The states would also be encouraged to set up State and Local Government Committees. It is hoped that public awareness and action can be brought down to grass-root level.

To achieve these objectives, the following activities are planned:

(i) Workshops and seminars;
(ii) Public lectures;
(iii) Television and radio programmes on family-related issues; and
(iv) Review and enactment of family laws, etc.

NORWAY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ministry of Children and
Family Affairs
P.O. Box 8036 Dep.
0030 Oslo 1

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Johanna Suhrland
Ministry of Children and
Family Affairs
P.O. Box 8036 Dep.
0030 Oslo 1

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Ministry of Children and Family Affairs, which has been charged with preparing for and observing the International Year of the Family, has adopted a plan of action for the Year on a national level, and has taken steps to implement the IYF also at the local level. In doing so, there has been much emphasis on an organizational model, which comprises co-operation with, and contributions from, the voluntary organizations. The activities will be based on the United Nations principles for the Year and on Norwegian family policies.

According to Norwegian values and traditions, the family is the basic unit of society whose main function is to provide security for its members and the upbringing of children. Family law and other measures are based on these principles.

The Government's family policy focuses mainly on families with children; the major goals are to ease the parents' responsibility for the care and fostering of children, and to realize the aim of equality between men and women inside and outside the home. A wide range of family measures have been adopted, of which the most important are:

(a) A system of continuous care for children under 10, including: care facilities; parental leave through the child's first year of life; increased and flexible parent leave; child care facilities for pre-school children; and after-school facilities;

(b) Family and child welfare: This will include the family counselling service for handling family problems and crises, and the Child Welfare System which ensures that vulnerable children and adolescents are helped at the right time. A new Welfare Act came into force in 1993;

(c) Financial transfers to families with children: This deals with the question of family allowances that are paid to all families with children under 16 years of age, irrespective of income or wealth.

The major concerns of Norwegian family policy will also be the basis for the activities in the national observance of the IYF.

Organization of IYF in Norway

Norway has numerous non-governmental organizations working for different groups such as women, children, the elderly etc. These NGOs have been very valued in the preparations for the IYF, especially at the local level.

The Ministry has set up a National IYF Committee consisting of representatives from more than 30 organizations, headed by the Secretary of State in the Ministry of Children and Family Affairs. It also has a Working Committee with representatives from some of the major organizations.

(a) The role of the IYF National Committee is to supervise the co-operation between the Ministry and the organizations and between the organizations themselves in planning activities for the IYF.

(b) An Inter-Ministerial Working Group: To ensure a representative observation of family issues on behalf of the Norwegian Government, an Inter-Ministerial Working Group has been set up with representatives from various ministries. This group will identify family-related means and measures in different ministries in order to place them in a family context during 1994. The guiding objective is to make visible the range of measures supporting family members and the family as a unit and in that way present a comprehensive conception of family policy.

(c) A Co-ordinating Unit within the Ministry: This Unit consists of a project leader who will co-ordinate the different activities for IYF, and act as secretary for the IYF National Committee, and an information officer whose main task is to publicize information during the Year.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Producing and spreading knowledge and information on family issues will be the core of activities planned as specific to the IYF in Norway.

(a) Specific activities during the IYF include a leaflet on the IYF, based on the United Nations proclamation and national preparations for the Year. A periodical on family questions and the observances of the IYF at the national level will be issued, and will be the main channel for information from the Ministry and the National Committee.

To assist in gathering and disseminating knowledge on current family issues, a family research conference will take place in 1994. The Norwegian Research Council is about to start research on children, youth and family topics, supported by the Ministry. A book on relevant family issues is another proposal as a specific initiative for the IYF.

(b) The IYF in Norway will focus on different aspects in the Government's family policies. The main topics will be varying aspects of policies for children and parents, i.e. child care and the parental role.

A large exhibition, entitled "Growing Up", supported by several ministries, will take place in March 1994 at Tromsø, in northern Norway. The event will also feature stands, seminars, etc., focusing on different themes in the lives of children. Another project concerning the parental role will be initiated at the ministerial level. The Government will start a project on parental counselling in co-operation with local municipalities. Local Health Centres will organize discussion groups and other forms of guidance and advice to parents on the raising of children.

During 1994, the new "Time account scheme" will continue to be broadly publicized. A nation-wide publicity campaign is planned to make this innovative parental leave scheme known to employees and employers throughout Norway.

OMAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ministry of Social Affairs
P.O. Box 560
Muscat

FOCAL POINT

Directorate General of Women
and Child Affairs
P.O. Box 560
Muscat

NATIONAL ACTION

1. Symposia and Lectures: A number of lectures will be organized on topics to be identified at the level of all the parties involved in the observance of the International Year of the Family, taking into account activities concerning women, men, children, young people, the elderly and persons with disabilities.

In addition, a number of symposia and lectures will be held in each area; the speakers will be selected from:

(i) Experts or scientists working for the State;
(ii) Experts or scientists employed by various organizations; and
(iii) Specialists belonging to the parties participating in the observance.

2. Seminars: Two extended seminars will be organized, at the Ministerial level, to which experts and specialists on the family will be invited. Special topics will be limited to the theme of the IYF. The seminars will include a discussion of issues relating to families, including their problems and needs (Muscat, Silala).

3. Training courses: Several training courses will be organized for Ministry staff concerned with family affairs, and for voluntary community leaders, as well as a number of workshops.

4. Fairs: Various fairs will be organized throughout the Sultanate, and will focus on the importance of highlighting cultural, scientific, social and environmental factors. These fairs, for their awareness-raising value, considered to be among the most significant activities of the observance of the IYF, include:

(i) A handicraft fair;
(ii) A book and publications fair;

(iii) An exhibition of photography, documentary films and posters. These events will present the most important activities in connection with the family, such as environmental, traditional and handicraft industries involving women and voluntary domestic enterprises. They will also highlight the manner in which family issues, problems and needs are being dealt with, resolved and met, and they will focus on the importance of the family, and action for its upgrading and education;

(iv) Exhibitions highlighting outstanding talents among children and young people.

5. Youth work camps will be organized to stress the need and importance for an effective participation by young people in the development of their society, and to provide the opportunity for them to demonstrate their capabilities and skills.

6. Scientific, social research contests: Several topics concerning the family will be chosen so as to encourage researchers and those interested in preparing studies to participate in examining issues and problems pertaining to the family, particularly those concerning childhood, women, ageing, youth, and persons with disabilities.

7. Field visits will be organized for several official and voluntary centres which provide services for the family at the Sultanate level, for the following purposes:

(i) To introduce delivered programmes and projects; and
(ii) To exchange experiences and to highlight the main ones.

In addition, a number of information visits will be organized during the IYF for family workers and volunteers from certain Arab countries so that they can benefit from such programmes, and from the exchange of experiences and information.

8. Information coverage:

(i) Preparing a documentary television programme to highlight interest in the Omani family throughout the Sultanate, and to introduce projects and activities undertaken by the public authorities and other domestic parties;
(ii) Presenting many series of the radio programme, "Social Journal" and the television programme, "Manpower", on issues relating to the family and children;
(iii) Issuing information letters;
(iv) Organizing a TV symposium on the family;
(v) Providing information coverage on all the activities undertaken during the IYF, through the various mass media;

(vi) Preparing and publishing posters, brochures and instruction booklets on the occasion of the IYF, under the theme, "The Family - Resources and Responsibilities in a Changing World"; and

(vii) Issuing information documentation on all activities carried out during the IYF: (a) a book on the activities as part of the observance of the IYF; and (b) television coverage of all the activities for the IYF.

PANAMA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ms. Nora Arosemena de Batinovich Comisión Nacional para la Coordinación del Año Internacional de la Familia Dirección General de Bienestar Social Ministerio de Trabajo y Bienestar Social Panama	Ms. Itzia Aizpura Perez Directora General Encargade de Organismos y Conferencias Internacionales Ministerio de Relacions Exteriores Republica de Panama Panama 4

NATIONAL ACTION

The preparatory activities for the International Year of the Family in Panama are being directed by the General Direction of Social Welfare, which is attached to the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

The Government of Panama, by Decree No. 15 (7 June 1993), established a National Co-ordinating Commission for the IYF. The Commission, led by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, has representatives from the Office of the First Lady, the Ministries of Economic Planning and Policy; Health and Education; and the Comptroller of the Republic; as well as from the Church, the academic community and non-governmental organizations. Actions taken by the Commission include: periodic meetings for preparing the working plans to be followed during the IYF; budgeting for the activities involved; and creating an executive secretariat as support for the Committee.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, as the co-ordinating body for all activities at the national level, has also carried out various preparatory actions to commemorate the IYF.

The Commission has been given the mandate: to draw up and carry out a national programme of preparatory measures and events for the International Year of the Family, by a plan of activities; to examine and evaluate the situation of the family and promote studies on this subject; to organize public campaigns on problems concerning the family, and to promote matters of interest to the family; to propose and evaluate policies concerning the family; to facilitate the participation of non-governmental organizations in the preparation and celebration of IYF events; to incorporate family related programmes into the national activities.

As part of preparatory actions, during the celebrations of a "Week of the Family", discussion centred on a main item: "Towards 1994 - International Year of the Family", with the objectives of co-ordinating all the suggestions that have been made regarding the full participation of families in the IYF; creating more national awareness of the family's importance as a natural and fundamental part of society; collecting contributions and impressions to serve as a framework for the planning and execution of the National Plan to be followed during the IYF.

Activities included: a national drawing competition for 4-year-olds, "This is my family"; a poster for the Week of the Family was distributed showing the winning drawing as well as the logo of the IYF; a picture book relating to the family was published and distributed in children's centres.

The Commission has elaborated a Working Plan which covers the period of September 1993 to December 1994, based on the following principles:

1) To recognize that the family is a basic unit of society and therefore requires special attention and that the best possible protection and assistance has to be given to the family so that it can assume its responsibilities within the community, having as a frame the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women;

2) To recognize that the family assumes different forms and functions;

3) To ensure that the preparatory and commemorative IYF activities promote the human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all individuals;

4) Policies should promote the equality between men and women so that they share the domestic responsibilities as well as opportunities of work;

5) The preparatory and commemorative IYF activities must be carried out at all levels; but priority must be given to the local and national levels;

6) The family-oriented programmes must support families to carry out their functions instead of replacing them;

7) The International Year of the Family must be more than an event but the beginning of a continuous process.

The Working Plan has the following objectives, goals and activities:

The short-term target during 1994 is to strengthen the consciousness at all societal levels about family problems, ranging from issues in family policies to those concerned with internal family structure, with the long-term objective of strengthening the family as the nucleus of society.

Specific objectives of the Year include: following up the various resolutions and recommendations generated through the International Year of the Family; strengthening the institutional capacity of the public sector as well as the private sector concerning family policies; promoting and strengthening the family values and the internal structure of families.

Goals of the Year in Panama include: declaring the Decade of the Family; establishing provincial groups for the follow up of the International Year of the Family and the development of the activities of the Decade of the Family; achieving at the State level formal recognition of the family as the basic nucleus of the society and as an institution with its own identity; achieving an Official Declaration for the concretization of family policies; strengthening existing programmes that satisfy the unmet basic needs of families and, in particular, to facilitate access to health services, and those concerned with education, nutrition, the environment, housing, recreation, labour and income; promoting the approval and application of the Family Code realized through family policies; achieving a greater consciousness in the family nucleus itself regarding their own problems and potential to seek out solutions.

Planned activities for the International Year of the Family include:

(1) Elaborating a Base Document presenting the problems faced by Panamanian families incorporating proposals and recommendations (October - November 1993);

(2) Carrying out a national competition to choose Panana's logo for the IYF;

(3) Requesting that competitions, such as Premio Ricardo Miró, Caja de Ahorros and others develop their themes based on the family;

(4) Requesting that State institutions put a small band alluding to the International Year of the Family on the service cheques and receipts;

(5) Requesting that the official communications of the whole governmental sector include symbolic references to the IYF;

(6) Discussing the Base Document through a National Congress (January 1994) and Provincial Workshops (February - December 1994);

(7) Disseminating and promoting awareness of the family problems through informative bulletins, the mass media and competitions;

(8) Participating in international, regional and sub-regional events regarding the IYF;

(9) Promoting the activities of non-governmental organizations concerned with family issues;

(10) Conducting workshops on family issues with classes, parents congresses and courses at the university level (January - December 1994);

(11) Celebrating the International Day of Families within the Week of the Family;

(12) Elaborating specific indicators to assist in further research and policy discussions on the family;

(13) Organizing a National Congress concerning evaluation and follow up projects to the Year;

(14) Undertaking and encouraging research and studies on family issues.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Mr. Joseph Klapat Department of Home Affairs and Youth Ori Lavi Haus P.O. Box 7354 Boroko	Mr. Bill Kua Secretary Department of Home Affairs and Youth Ori Lavi Haus P.O. Box 7354, Boroko

NATIONAL ACTION

The IYF will be observed in Papua New Guinea as an impetus to strengthen programmes to address current family issues. In the provinces, agencies engaged in providing social and family welfare services report that the incidence of socially related problems have been exacerbated by relatively new phenomena not met earlier, including teenage pregnancies, desertion of new-born children; domestic violence and adoption. The Government has indicated that World Health Organization reports show that the number of persons with disability in the country is 13% of the population; the National Board for Disabled Persons reports that, in 1992, nearly 1800 persons were receiving assistance.

Social development policies and social services: Since 1948, the Government has relied largely on the churches and NGOs for providing social and welfare services for families and disadvantaged groups, a situation that still continues.

Certain functions are covered by regulations and policies, such as the Child Welfare Act, the Youth Service Act and Women's Policy. The Government recognized that it must take preventive measures that involve the parallel promotion of both the social and the economic development of the country.

With the weakening of kinship ties and the extended family, social problems are escalating alarmingly; this unprecedented turn of events has brought the Government of Papua New Guinea to confront social issues that include:

(i) The need to provide community-based social services for families and children;

(ii) Spreading essential Government services to rural areas in order to reduce rural migration and lawlessness;

(iii) Strengthening and supporting available resources within the communities for settling disputes and dealing with offenses;

(iv) Reinforcing the village court system by reviewing the existing legislation, with particular reference to the custody of children and the imprisonment of juveniles;

(v) The need to encourage responsible economic development to improve and protect the welfare of all citizens; and

(vi) The need for decentralized health and social services to enable access to them by the rural population.

National Social Development Policy for Social Services: In 1992, the Government ordered the formation of a National Social Development Policy for Social Services whose main goal is "...to improve the basic quality of lives of families and disadvantaged groups within villages and communities...". The policy is in line with national goals and principles of the national constitution.

Legislation will include Acts that cover subjects, such as the National Youth Service, Probation Services, the National Council of Women, etc.; Policies cover, among other items, crime prevention; law, order and justice; youth policy; women's policy and the National Health Plan.

The Government policy will be implemented through six main sources: community education awareness and action; specialized social development programme; family development and welfare services; legislative review and development; administrative capacity development; and manpower development and training.

The activities in observance of the International Year of the Family will be co-ordinated by a National IYF Committee consisting of representatives from relevant Government agencies, the churches and NGOs. The Committee's objective is to organize a series of awareness seminars related to the IYF theme and to make policy proposals to the Government. Seminars will include the following topics: Family and law; Family and finance; Family and religion; and Violence against women.

PARAGUAY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Primera Dama de la Nación
Comisión Nacional para el
Año Internacional de la Familia
Despacho de la Primera Dama
Asunción

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government has expressed its support for the principles and objectives of the International Year of the Family. By Presidential Decree, a National Commission for the International Year of the Family was constituted, comprised of governmental and non-governmental entities under the leadership of the First Lady of the country, to undertake a programme of observances for the Year.

PERU

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Office of the First Lady
Lima

NATIONAL ACTION

Peru's worst social problem is poverty. According to studies on poverty, approximately 70% of the total population live in poor conditions, and 30% of them live in extreme poverty. The characteristic features of living conditions for these people are low levels of income, poor nutrition and limited access to health services, education and basic sanitation. In this socio-economic frame, the plight of families is worsening.

Concentrating its efforts on families in extreme poverty and giving priority to young people in especially difficult circumstances, the INABIF, Instituto Nacional de Bienestar Familiar (National Institute for Family Welfare), has taken up the challenge of providing an alternative source of help for development of the family as the basic building block of society, with children the symbol of restored values, as a means of facing the crisis in Peru. The INABIF has proposed the following activities to celebrate the International Year of the Family:

(1) At a high level, to proclaim 1994 as "Theme Year of the Peruvian Family";
(2) To develop public awareness about family values;
(3) To spread, via the mass media, Child Rights; the Code of the Child and the Adolescent; Family Planning - Responsible Paternity; Defence of Minors; and Family Rights and Protection;
(4) To put into practice a legal framework for protecting the family;
(5) To implement policies, plans and actions to strengthen the family;
(6) To reinforce programmes meant for satisfying basic family needs, such as health, education, nutrition, housing, and employment;
(7) To promote and encourage the participation of private institutions, the Church and non-governmental organizations;
(8) To establish offices for the Defence of the Child and Family in all community centres;

(9) To spread family values through education to children and young people, encouraging them to participate in literature and art competitions;
(10) To promote recreation and artistic activities for all family members;
(11) To set up workshops to support family victims of violence, and AIDS; and, for the disabled, developing programmes and care and prevention;
(12) To organize, with community participation, meetings on the family and on cultural identity, cultural and traditional values, etc.;
(13) Seminars and round-table meetings with the participation of professionals on family planning; on welfare programmes in local governments; and on social support for families in extreme poverty;
(14) To encourage university research on the family.

The Ministry of Justice will also be involved in activities for the IYF. For example, it has suggested that 1994 be designated "The Year of the Peruvian Family". Conferences, seminars and meetings will be organized to discuss and debate the legal aspects of the family in Peru. The Ministry of Justice also plans to develop activities in sectors where there are legal consultations so as to activate programmes on the legal aspects concerning the family. The Ministry will collaborate with the NGOs and municipalities throughout Peru, and will propagate, together with the Ministry of Education, NGOs, and others, legal rights for the family and for children.

Within the Latin and Central American level, it is proposed that a convention be drafted on the protection of the family in situations of emergency and violence. Also, a multi-sectoral commission could be established with specialists to review the Civil Code concerning family matters. The Ministry of Justice plans to establish an Office of Women through the National Council of Human Rights, and to promote national, cultural and educational programmes through the mass media.

The Ministry of Justice has also proposed the establishment of more family courts in Peru and will conduct training cources for judicial officers working at various stages of the judicial process and concerned with juvenile and family questions; as well as cooperating in the establishment of juvenile welfare offices in private and public institutions. The Ministry also plans to expand the legal assistance to families by the Public Legal Advice Bureaux in matters of alimony, registration of family events, abandonment, parental authority, minors and adoption.

The Ministry of Education intends to include in its activities programmes on the family in primary and secondary schools; to implement a "Parent School", and to review "Parent Schools" organized in 1993. Programmes for children under five years old will be initiated with the participation of the family and the community. The Ministry also plans to establish community educational homes, and to set up family welfare centres.

PHILIPPINES

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Department of Social Welfare and Development Batasan Pambansa Complex Constitution Hills 1 Queson City Metro Manila	The Director Bureau of Family and Community Welfare Department of Social Welfare and Development Constitution Hills 1 Queson City Metro Manila

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NATIONAL ACTION

The Department of Social Welfare and Development, through the Bureau of Family and Community Welfare, has conducted activities to prepare for the International Year of the Family. The following activities will highlight IYF preparations:

1. The National Co-ordinating Committee became operational in September 1993 and includes representatives from various sectors and agencies.

2. A Survey on the Filipino Family: To overcome the problem of limited data among agencies concerned with the Filipino family, a survey was completed in April 1992, and provided data on the following issues:

(i) Opportunities and strengths of families;
(ii) Threats to families;
(iii) How threats to families are being handled by agencies concerned;
(iv) Recommendations and plans to deal with such threats.

3. Round-table consultation meetings: A national consultation dialogue was held on 5 May 1993, to discuss family problems and recommendations for families. Participants were family representatives and selected experts on family issues. On 25 May 1993, a similar consultation dialogue was conducted by the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women.

4. First Round of Regional Consultation Dialogues, held throughout the fourteen regions of the Philippines in August 1993. Among the issues discussed were prevailing Filipino family concerns, and existing legislation, policies and programmes for families.

5. Preparing Plans of Action for Families by Local Government Units: The Department provided technical assistance and paid monitoring visits to local government units nation-wide.

6. The Department provided technical assistance to Government agencies and non-governmental organizations in preparing their plans for families. The following activities have been planned for 1993 and 1994:

(i) A second round of consultation dialogues at the regional level;
(ii) Local Parent Education Congresses: Representative families, from village level to the provincial level, are formulating their plans for families for the Year;
(iii) National Parent Education Congress: Representatives of families from villages and agencies concerned with welfare presented the Philippine Plan of Action for the Family to the President of the Republic, on 8 December 1993;
(iv) The Department will monitor, review and evaluate activities carried out by the various sectors. Review and evaluation workshops will be headed by the Department.

The responses from specialized NGOs on family issues in the Philippines stressed concern on many alarming factors; some of the most important of which are: poverty; high cost of living; poor health; malnutrition; low education standards; poor sanitation; unemployment; and poor job opportunities.

Issues identified under the heading of disintegration of families include the following: overseas work; shifting roles of father and mother; absentee parents; inadequate parenting skills; proliferation of pornographic material; rejected or unwanted children; domestic violence; and natural calamities, such as earthquakes and tornadoes.

In addition, issues have been identified in inadequate housing, poor transport, large families, overpopulation and crime.

Many opportunities or positive aspects for families in the Philippines have also been identified as a basis for development and problem-solving. These include the traditional Filipino attachment to religion; education seminars carried out through the church and NGOs; support systems between neighbours; projects for youth, disabled and street children; establishment of schools and day care; agricultural programmes; pre-marriage counselling; co-operatives and availability of land.

At the level of local communities, problems are being dealt with by forming co-operatives/livelihood programmes; conducting education on sexual matters; forming day-care programmes and health services; setting up affordable legal services; popularized reading materials on laws and rights; outreach programmes for youth.

Recommendations include consultation and collaboration of NGOs, Government agencies and the churches to avoid duplication of services; grouping families with common concerns; intensifying free education; training on how to use local resources; setting up agricultural programmes; family planning services; and adult education.

The response from Government organizations on the threats and problems that weaken families include the following:

(i) Inadequate/lack of qualifications for gainful employment; exploitation of labour; and insufficient income.

(ii) Family relationships - breakdown of family values because of unregulated mass media; incest; drug abuse and addiction; lack of parenting skills; single parenting; prostitution.

(iii) Poor health and malnutrition; high risk pregnancies and high infant mortality and maternal mortality rates; inadequate health facilities; poor water facilities; unsanitary/unhygienic environment; food insecurity.

(iv) Regarding education, Government organizations have expressed concern about widespread illiteracy; lack of educational facilities; high cost of education; and insufficient benefits for the staff.

POLAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
H.E. Mr. Josef Olesky Speaker of the SEJM Polish Committee for the International Year of the Family (IYF) SEJM RP Ul. Wiejska 4/6/8 00-902 Warsaw	Office of the National Group of Women Parliamentarians SEJM RP Ul. Wiejska 4/6/8 00-902 Warsaw

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Republic of Poland has begun observing the International Year of the Family and intends to attach due importance to domestic celebrations which should be held throughout the country. To that end, preparations were initiated by the establishment of a National Committee under the honourary presidency of the Head of State. Continued commitment to high profile leadership for the Year throughout the preparatory process has been demonstrated by the appointment of the Speaker of the Polish Parliament to head the National Coordinating Committee. The National Committee includes representatives from various ministries as well as the non-governmental community and other groups.

The Government has identified a number of key issues in the context of the Year, upon which action is to be taken to improve the social and material standing of Polish families. These include: privatization and establishing a framework for family-based enterprises; inflation control measures to protect the spending power of families; equitable distribution of costs implicated in budget reform; and poverty alleviation. A primary consideration is that, without inhibiting the reform process, sufficient provisions should be in place to protect those families negatively affected in the short-term by the process of change. Commensurate with this view is the basic objective of achieving a harmonious balance and complementarity in social and economic policy.

The systemic transformation of Poland necessitates changes in all aspects of social life. Thus, long-term national programmes are emerging which will significantly affect the future of the Polish family. These are:

1. The national health programme, which aims to: (i) improve the awareness of society, especially of the younger generation, concerning aspects of health; (ii) reduce the impact of harmful chemical, physical and social factors upon the life and working environment of individuals and communities; and (iii) obtain security in health matters by eliminating costs that make it possible for people to meet their health needs.

2. Educational reform - to modify school curricula and to eliminate State monopoly in the education sector.

3. The housing policy - to establish conditions for acquiring and using apartments by all social groups, especially the low-income families.

The main aims of IYF celebrations in Poland are:

(i) To give moral support to families at difficult times of socio-economic transformations;
(ii) To promote the family as the main entity of society;
(iii) To present the family as a guardian of humanistic and cultural values;
(iv) To support appropriate social protection of the family, with special attention to high-risk families;
(v) To support health- and environment-oriented actions for the benefit of families.

Regional and local IYF committees also have been organized in various parts of the country to undertake observances at their respective levels.

Programmes and events for the IYF

As part of its preparatory contribution to the International Year of the Family, Poland was the host site of a major international conference on the Legal Rights of Families, organized by the International Union of Family Organisations, in association with the Government of Poland.

Various civic organizations are planning and organizing numerous activities to celebrate the IYF. Two national conferences devoted to family issues, soon to take place in Plock and Kalisz, are organized by associations which make up the Polish National Committee of the International Union of Family Organizations, in collaboration with the Office of the Polish Government Plenipotentiary for Women and Family Affairs.

The Ministry of Education is to conduct a school programme whose aim will be to prepare children and adolescents for their future family life, and its inherent responsibilities. Through this medium, IYF themes will be discussed and promoted in the educational system.

The mass media will play an important role in IYF celebrations, and will produce effective promotion of the Year, including radio and television broadcasts on issues related to the Year. In addition to a number of daily papers, regular columns dealing with family themes have been established in some weekly magazines.

Finally, two international conferences will be held in Poland:

(a) A conference on natural family planning will be organized in Lublin by the International Federation for Family Life; and
(b) The XVIII International Congress of Families, organized by the "Famille de Demain", will take place in Warsaw, from 14 to 17 April 1994. A literary and fine arts contest for school children, "Love and the Family: Dreams and Reality", will coincide with the Congress.

Both conferences will be organized with the involvement of Government institutions.

Under the auspices of the National Coordinating Committee, working groups have been identified to formulate action on key initiatives on subjects which include:

i) Formulation of new legislation on the child and measures to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

ii) A report on The Polish Child;

iii) Education in the Family;

iv) Health issues;

v) A special project - "Friends of Children";

vi) An international conference on "The Child in the Family";

vii) A gala concert;

viii) A poster competition.

A parliamentary debate on the Polish Family is also planned for 1994.

PORTUGAL

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
The Portuguese Committee for the International Year of the Family Office of the Prime Minister 1091 Lisbon Codex	Dra. Maria Raquel Ribeiro Direcção-General da Família Praça de Londres 2 - 5º 1091 Lisbon Codex

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

A Committee for the International Year of the Family has been formed to undertake national co-ordination responsibilities. The Committee is headed by the Prime Minister and includes the Minister of Employment and Social Security; representatives of the Minister of Education and the Portuguese Episcopal Conference; the General Director for Family Affairs; the Presidents of the Institute for Youth, Caritas, the National Confederation of Family Associations, the National Confederation of Parents' Associations, the Union of Private Institutions of Social Solidarity, and the "Uniao des Misericórdias Portuguesas"; and six well-known personalities and experts on family matters, nominated by the Prime Minister.

An Executive Council carries out plans of the Committee and ensures that the secretariat work is organized so as to obtain the best results for the programme of the International Year of the Family. The Committee's activities began in January 1992 and will end on 31 March 1995 after evaluating the IYF report.

The Committee has identified health, education, culture, mass media, housing and municipal councils as the main areas on which specific working groups have been set up to achieve concrete results. An action plan, approved for 1993-1994, includes a schedule for research and other activities as follows:

(1) A report on the actual situation of the Portuguese family. This report, made under the auspices of the Human and Social Sciences Department of the "Universidade Nova" of Lisbon, has been completed.

(2) A book on the Portuguese family with chapters concerning demography, economy, history and related themes for release by the Committee at the official opening of the IYF, in January 1994.

(3) To arouse public interest in family-related issues, four contests - slogans, posters, photography, and literature - were organized under the title, "Family: a Value to be Promoted".

Regarding cultural aspects, the fact that Lisbon will be the European Capital for Culture during 1994 is significant. Three important events will take place in Lisbon: (1) An exhibition on Portuguese painting on the Family from public and private collections; (ii) A play on the family will be performed at the National Theatre; (iii) A film cycle on the family will be shown; and (iv) a Portuguese literary anthology of prose, poems, and essays will be published.

In education, it is intended that (i) the theme of the family be introduced in subjects proposed by the universities for theses and exams for Master and Doctorate degrees; and (ii) co-operation between family, school and community be increased.

In health questions, the objectives are (i) to reinforce family resources and to improve the quality of life; (ii) to humanize health and welfare services for most vulnerable families; and (iii) to improve the quality of home help services.

In this context, the Commission will promote public awareness of family problems, and the improvement of national institutional capabilities to carry out family policies. To achieve these goals, it is proposed that: (i) a local network be developed to arouse people's attention and to provide families with direct social support; and (ii) the promulgation of family laws be studied in order to improve the quality of family life, particularly in housing and in the relationships between professional and family life.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The following have been published to commemorate IYF:

(i) A folder;
(ii) A bulletin: "Família é Notícia" (Family is News);
(iii) A leaflet which explains the guidelines, objectives and the programme of the IYF in Portugal;
(iv) Posters;
(v) A Handbook for the Portuguese Family (Guia da Família Portuguesa).

At the local level, a chain reaction was generated and several meetings and seminars about the IYF took place in Portugal's main towns. Among the most outstanding were:

(1) During the Portuguese Presidency of the European Community, three important events connected with the IYF took place: (i) In Lisbon - a conference entitled "Family and People with Disability: Realities and Opportunities"; (ii) In Funchal (Madeira) - a European conference, "Older People and the Family: Solidarity between Generations; and (iii) In Lisbon another conference, "Europe - an Opportunity for Women - a Potential for Europe".

(2) Under the sponsorship of the General-Directorate for Family Affairs, seminars were held in Faro (Algarve) and in Ponta Delgada and Horta (Azoreas).

Members of the IYF Executive Council are working together with other Government and private institutions to develop general public awareness of IYF issues.

QATAR

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Social Development Department
Division of Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs
and Housing
P.O. Box 201
Doha

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Faysal Ahmad Al-SADA
Director of Social Development
Department
Division of Social Affairs
Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs
and Housing
P.O. Box 201
Doha

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

FOCAL POINT

Family Welfare Division
Office of Social Welfare Policies
Ministry of Health and Social
Affairs (MOHSA)
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1 Joongang-Dong, Kwacheon-Shi
Kyungki-do, 427-760 Seoul

NATIONAL ACTION

The IYF has been undertaken in the context of existing programmes for families in the Republic of Korea. A family welfare policy is in force for children, women, the elderly and disabled persons. The goal of these policies is the maintenance of a healthy family and takes several forms:

(1) Welfare for the elderly: Based on the Welfare Act for the Aged, the Government has implemented a programme of annual free medical examinations to promote health for the aged. In addition, the Government is establishing and operating welfare facilities for the elderly and home help services for the elderly at home.

(2) Women's welfare: Women's welfare projects are implemented under the 1989 Mother-Child Welfare Act and the 1961 Prostitution Prevention Act. These consist mostly of counselling procedures to prevent poverty for mothers and children, and vocational training course for the underprivileged, etc. The 1987 Equal Employment Opportunity Act provides equal rights for women in employment, at retirement age and child care leave. A nursery service is supplied for employed mothers at their working places and on industrial sites, in accordance with the 1991 Day Care Act for Babies and Infants.

(3) Child welfare measures: Through the Child Welfare Law, provinces, cities and social welfare agencies operate child guidance clinics. By March 1992, there were 50 such clinics and, by the year 2000, the Government plans to establish at least one more in each city and county. A Child Search Centre has also been set up to locate abandoned and missing children. The 1991 Day Care Act for Babies and Infants provides nursery services for children below six years of age who cannot be adequately cared for by their guardians, owing to work, illness, or other reasons.

(4) Disability welfare programmes: State welfare programmes for disabled persons were first implemented in 1981, to mark the International Year of Disabled Persons. Since 1988, a comprehensive plan for people with disabilities has been initiated. This programme was given considerable impetus by the 1988 Seoul Para-Olympics.

In February 1993, the Government of the Republic of Korea designated the Family Welfare Division, Office of Social Welfare Policies, Ministry of Health and Social Affairs (MOSHA), as the national focal point for IYF.

MOSHA informed research institutes and non-government organizations concerned with family matters about the IYF and urged their positive participation in preparing projects for the Year. Seminars and discussion meetings on family issues are being planned. To promote recognition of IYF, MOSHA is also planning to issue a commemorative postage stamp.

ROMANIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
Str. Stravopoleos nr. 6
cod 70075, Sector 6
Bucharest

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Victor Dan Zlătescu
Member of the Constitutional Court
Calea 13 Septembrie nr. 1, ex. 5
Sector 5
Bucharest

NATIONAL ACTION

The Romanian Government attaches great importance to family matters which are a part of the Government's social policy during the present transitional period.

For the International Year of the Family, a National Committee has been set up, comprising representatives of the National Commission of Statistics, the Romanian Academy of Sciences, the Constitutional Court, and other ministries concerned.

The Committee is to submit to the Government various aspects relating to family policy, such as:

(i) Surveys on the development of living standards;

(ii) The economic situation of families;

(iii) Surveys on education and training.

The Romanian National Committee for the IYF, assisted by the Constitutional Court, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Romanian Institute for Human Rights, the Institute for Children and Family and the Family Forum Organization, has carried out numerous projects discribed under the following headings.

(1) Meetings: These included (i) a debate concerning family policy in Romania, organized by the Institute for Children and the Family; (ii) an International Seminar on Human Rights, where questions concerning improving activities of international bodies dealing with family protection were discussed. The final document, adopted by the participants, "The Declaration of Bucharest", was submitted to the World Conference on Human Rights, held in Vienna in

June 1993; (iii) courses were organized at the Black Sea University for judges and lawyers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, where issues concerning family rights in the context of human rights were discussed; and (iv) at the end of the 1992-1993 academic year, a scientific session on family law was organized for the students of the Bucharest Ecological University.

(2) Publicity actions. The publishing house of the Romanian Institute for Human Rights released a booklet referring to family policy and family planning, and distributed it widely free of charge. Subsequently, the booklet was translated into French. The leading newspapers, with the support of the National News Agency (Rompres), printed information about the IYF and a programme on the IYF was broadcast by Romanian television.

Also, from Costinesti, round-table debates on the IYF were broadcast live; interviews on the Europe and North America Regional Preparatory Meeting, the preparations for the IYF, and aspects of family policy in Romania, were broadcast by Radioifuziunea Romana.

The IYF poster, made available from the IYF Secretariat, was distributed throughout Romania.

(i) A National Conference on the IYF will be held by the end of the year; and

(ii) The Romanian National Committee for the IYF is negotiating with the International Union of Family Organisations to convene, in Bucharest, the Committee for Family Law of the Union, to analyze and discuss recent changes in family law in some European countries.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

First Deputy Chairman
of the Council of Ministers
National Council for the Preparation
and Observance of the International
Year of the Family
Office of the President of the
Russian Federation
Moscow

FOCAL POINT

Ms. L.F. Bezlepkina
First Deputy Minister of the
Russian Federation for the Social
Protection of the Population and
Director of the Department of Family,
Women's and Children's Affairs
Ministry of Social Protection of the
Population of the Russian Federation
Building 1, Pl. Nogina 4
103727 Moscow

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory measures being undertaken by the National Council for the IYF include collating information received from all those areas and agencies involved in preparations for the International Year of the Family. Preparatory measures also include setting up co-ordinating bodies, devising programmes for tackling the most acute family problems, disseminating public information, organizing research and development; securing collaborative partnerships with private enterprises and non-governmental organizations. Special emphasis is to be placed on the need for closer co-operation with the mass media, and greater public awareness about family problems in Russia.

Federal plans for the IYF include requesting the Ministry of Finance, together with the relevant Federal ministries, agencies and social organizations, to help finance the Federal plan for the IYF. The draft of a State family policy has been prepared by the Co-ordinating Committee on Issues Related to Families, Mothers and Children, in co-operation with the Federal ministries, NGOs and others. The Council of Ministers and Government of the Russian Federation have been asked to discuss the draft for a State family policy.

By decree of the President of the Russian Federation, a National Council has been established to prepare for the International Year of the Family and to organize its observance. The Council includes the heads of Federal ministries, together with public figures, religious leaders and others. Additional mechanisms for concerted action on the Year have been established by districts, provinces and autonomous regions of the Federation, including executive authorities at these levels and, in the republics, by the chief government official. By decision of the governments of the republics and governing authorities at other levels, numerous councils, coordinating committees and commissions for preparation and observance of the IYF have been established.

As the IYF preparatory stage has come to an end, most of the 88 territories have responded by forming councils, co-ordinating committees or other mechanisms for the Year.

Generally, measures for the IYF are prepared according to special regional plans and programmes that play an important role in carrying out policies for families and children. For example, a provincial programme in Pskov, "Family policy in the Pskov province to the year 2000", was launched; a family policy programme has been initiated in the Pensensky province; and special mention has been made of the comprehensive plans of the Komi Republic to prepare for and observe the Year. A newspaper, called "The Nurse", is published in Vologodsky province, where parents and teachers can find useful advice on the upbringing and care of children and on family education. Most territories are implementing a broad array of measures to observe the Year.

Throughout the Russian Federation, districts, provinces and republics have been setting up various types of welfare centres beneficial to families, especially mothers and children. Many of these facilities are the first of their kind in the communities involved. These include refuges for homeless children; clubs for children with disabilities; counselling services for teenagers; medical centres; family-planning centres; clothing exchanges and other self-help facilities; food centres for poor children and families. At one centre, a 24-hour crisis service has been set up for children and adolescents who attempted suicide and those in difficulties.

Training of welfare workers: Because of considerable difficulties in staffing family services with qualified social workers, some territories have initiated specialized training at local institutions for higher education; and in various provinces training has been organized for psychologists, lawyers and sociologists to help them provide consultation services to families. Work with families is particularly successful in territories where State bodies co-operate actively with the regional authorities.

Finally, of the many IYF activities, the various conferences on family aspects planned for the IYF, both in Moscow and in other Russian territories, are considered to be very important.

The IYF programme includes a number of shorter-term priorities such as cultural, information and scientific initiatives. Longer-term measures include comprehensive reports and completing the legislative framework concerning families.

Major elements of the National Action Plan for observance of the Year at the Federal level include:

(i) Devising and adopting an outline for a State family policy;

(ii) Drafting a report on the situation of families for presentation to the President of the Russian Federation, the Supreme Soviet, the Council of Ministers and Government;

(iii) Undertaking new or amended legislation on family policy, including: a draft law on State benefits to people with children; a draft to amend and supplement the Code of Marriage and the Family and the Code of Civil Procedure; a draft decision of the Supreme Soviet on Problems of Child neglect, juvenile offenders and the protection of their rights; supplements to the Code of Marriage and the Family concerning arrangements for adoption;

(iv) A proposal for introducing a national family day;

(v) Cultural measures, including: celebration of a family day, special televised broadcasts on the family; a festival of family art at the All-Russian Exhibition Centre; an international festival of family theatre and another devoted to musical dynasties; a competition/exhibition for book illustrations on the theme "My Father's House"; opening an arts education centre for toys and family theatre workshops; a Children's Book week to emphasize family reading; a special project on Children's creativity and an international festival "Games without frontiers", in Ivanovo;

(vi) Scientific measures, such as an international conference on the theme "The Individual, the Family and Society: Social problems, trends and forecasts"; an international seminar on "Women and Freedom: Choices in a world of tradition and change", an international conference on "The Family in the Process of Change"; a national congress on family planning and an international seminar on "Family problems in smaller ethnic groups";

(vii) Information measures, such as publication of a survey in "The Family in the Russian Federation" and a report on the situation of families, publishing a collection of regulations pertaining to established rights of the family, women and children, information bulletins on the activities of the National Council for the Preparation and Observance of the IYF.

RWANDA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Hon. Ms. Pauline Nyiramasuhuko
Le Ministre
Comité National de Coordination
de l'A.I.F.
Republique Rwandaise
Ministère de la Famille et de
la Promotion Feminine
B.P. 969, Kigali

FOCAL POINT

Comité National de Coordination
de l'A.I.F.
Republique Rwandaise
Ministère de la Famille et de
la Promotion Feminine
B.P. 969
Kigali

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Government created, in April 1992, a Ministry of the Family and the Advancement of Women which is responsible for co-ordinating the preparations for the International Year of the Family.

The new Ministry has set up the following priorities:

(i) Elaboration and follow-up of a strategy and a global plan for the protection of the family and advancement of women;
(ii) Conception and execution of short-, medium-, and long-term projects for the benefit of women and/or the family;
(iii) Adoption of means to reduce inequality between men and women of different educational backgrounds and skills as well as financial and material sources; and
(iv) Definition of the role of the child and his/her place in the family and in Rwandese society and the planning of strategies and action programmes so as to ensure its protection.

To fulfill this programme, an awareness campaign and educational programmes should target families in whatever form they assume, and promote co-operation between public and private, as well as the entire non-governmental organization sector working in the field.

The Ministry of the Family and the Advancement of Women is responsible for planning and co-ordinating all activities concerning the family at the national level. This includes following through the recommendations of the Seminar on a National Integrated Policy for the Protection of the Family and Advancement of Women, which took place in Kigali from 27 to 29 July 1992.

The Ministry of the Family and the Advancement of Women has set up a Preparation and follow-up group to ensure the daily management of all initiatives proposed by existing or future bodies. A National Co-ordinating Committee has been formed as well as regional liaison committees. The National Co-ordinating Committee comprises members from several ministries, the office of the Prime Minister and of the President of Rwanda, and various associations and religious groups - Christian and Moslem.

The regional liaison committees will be responsible for gathering information from the population and for planning the IYF activities at the local level.

In the spirit of the directives of the General Assembly of the United Nations, these bodies will focus on the following activities:

(i) A public awareness campaign on, for example, problems of the family, especially those in distress; family rights; social rights of marginalized families; and of the IYF;
(ii) To identify problems faced by various categories of family, and what welfare measures are being taken;
(iii) To prepare specific action plans for the protection and advancement of families; and for the social rehabilitation and economic integration of marginalized families, groups, and individuals; and
(iv) To mobilize the human and financial resources necessary for implementing the programmes that will be adopted.

Programmes and events for the IYF

1. To publicize the IYF, there will be an awareness campaign for the public that will consist of, among other things, short theatre pieces, songs and debates; the publication of articles in the main journals and magazines; the organization of a national exhibition on the creation of employment possibilities in rural areas; and the processing of agricultural products for consumption.

2. Programmes of action will include organizing conferences and seminars on family affairs; identifying families and groups of individuals with specific problems; and identifying the problems and needs of institutions which provide family support.

3. To mobilize human and financial resources, special postage stamps will be issued; a lottery will be organized; sporting activities are planned; etc.

4. Children's design contests will also be held.

SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
	Mr. Maurice Williams Director of Youth and Community Affairs Youth and Community Affairs Department P.O. Box 333 Basseterre, St. Kitts

NATIONAL ACTION

The main department in the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis which deals with family-related issues is the Department of Youth and Community Affairs, which has been planning activities for the International Year of the Family.

Suggested activities include:

Family picnics; radio programmes; a week each for Father, Mother, and Children; a workshop on domestic violence; essay, poetry and poster competitions, slogans and songs; exhibitions; concerts; and public recognition of outstanding families.

SAINT LUCIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Social Services Division
Ministry of Youth, Community
Development, Social Affairs,
Sports and Cooperatives
4th floor
New Government Buildings
John Compton Highway
Castries
Saint Lucia, W.I.

FOCAL POINT

The Permanent Secretary
Social Services Division
Ministry of Youth, Community
Development, Social Affairs,
Sports and Cooperatives
4th floor
New Government Buildings
John Compton Highway
Castries
Saint Lucia, W.I.

NATIONAL ACTION

The Social Services Division of the Ministry of Youth, Community Development, Social Affairs, Sports and Cooperatives has prepared a programme to mark the observance of the International Year of the Family at the national level.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Commisao nacional para d año
Internacional
Ministério da Saúde
Sao Tomé

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Maria do Carmo Bragança Neto
La Directrice
Gabinete do Apoio a Mulher e a Familia
Ministério da Saúde
Sao Tomé

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

A National Committee for the IYF has been formed in Sao Tomé. Local and regional committees have also been established for coordination of IYF actions at those levels. The Government has expressed its commitment to the International Year of the Family and has indicated that key issues which underpin the IYF at the international level are likewise considered priorities at the national level. Despite limited means, the Government has expressed its support for the principles and objectives of the IYF through a contribution to the Voluntary Fund for the IYF. Key among national priorities for the Year are:

(1) Strengthening families to support economic and social development and integration of family concerns into that process;

(2) Policies that can formulate ways to grant aid and protection to the family to enable it to assume its responsibilities in the community in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and assure that the fundamental rights of men and women are protected;

(3) To promote social progress and improve standards of living within a broader concept of democracy as a precondition for the well-being of individuals and the family. Specific measures are thought to be required in respect to:

(i) improved facilities for the education of children, to supply family support services and to create opportunities for mothers to be educated, and secure employment;

(ii) child care centres for the benefit of street children and to provide parents with greater opportunity to secure the means of self-subsistence;

(iii) creation of an office dealing with the problems of children, both boys and girls, to promote their development and productive contribution, to improve the situation of families in the future.

Despite limited means, the Government has indicated it will attempt urgent action on pressing issues in education, institutional support, welfare services, education for children and health services.

Programmes and events for the IYF

(1) A national draft report on the family will be finalized. The report analyzes and synthesizes programmes on the family, and proposes actions and measures to be taken in the future.

(2) Public awareness activities will include meeting with MPs and Government representatives, in early 1994. The meetings will involve examination and acceptance of the national draft report; and ensuring that MPs are aware of important family issues.

(3) A National Conference on the family will be held in June 1994. At the Conference, the national report will be distributed and discussed with the country's policy- and decision-makers. Those closely concerned with making decisions on family issues will be the subject of an intensive awareness campaign on the situation of families.

(4) Publicity on the IYF through radio and TV to arouse public awareness on the family during 1994.

(5) General awareness-raising campaign for the communities in the country, especially those in rural areas, on major problems facing families.

SAUDI ARABIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia c/o Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Formanekgasse 38 A-1190 Vienna, Austria	Deputy for Social Affairs Studies Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs Kingdom of Saudi Arabia c/o Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Formanekgasse 38 A-1190 Vienna, Austria

NATIONAL ACTION

The family in Saudi Arabia remains true to its cultural traditions and beliefs; family life is guided and supported by the mosques, the schools and the mass media. The main objectives of the social services provided by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for the family include: (i) strengthening family ties and improving the family situation, with emphasis on the care and education of children, in conformity with the principles of Islamic law; (ii) focusing on care for mothers and children and providing mothers with guidance on how to attend to the health and nutrition of their children; (iii) building more kindergartens and nurseries for children of pre-school age, to enable working women to devote time to their jobs, confident of the comfort and care of their children.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, through the Department of Social Security, contributes to ensuring the livelihood of Saudi families, providing two types of assistance:

(a) Pensions to orphans, totally disabled persons, and women with no-one to support them;

(b) Assistance to partially disabled persons and families of prisoners, relief in cases of personal disasters, urgent aid, productive projects for beneficiaries of social security, etc.

Social insurance is considered to be one of the basic criteria of the advancement and progress of nations, since it provides for social justice, security and peace. It also plays a basic role in the security and stability of the Saudi family.

In the care and rehabilitation of disabled persons, the Kingdom provides assistance through three ministries - the Ministries of Health, Education, and Labour and Social Affairs, through its Department of Social Affairs. Vocational, social and comprehensive rehabilitation centres have been set up to cater for persons with all types of disabilities.

The Ministry of Health has adopted clear policies to achieve the national objective of providing the best possible medical services free of charge to the entire population, including large cities, small villages, agricultural settlements, and nomadic Bedouin communities. New hospitals, health centres and institutes are being established. The Ministry's policies include: (i) expanding preventive health programmes; (ii) providing the best medical and health services under the banner, "Health for All"; (iii) expanding the network of primary health care to serve population centres in nomadic, rural and urban areas; (iv) creating more mother and child health-care centres; and (v) creating more hospitals.

Objectives of the education sector: The State provides the Saudi family with public education for boys and girls through the Ministry of Education and the Directorate of Girls' Education. It also provides educational opportunities to certain social groups, including disabled persons and adults through special education and literacy programmes. Equal attention is given to the education of boys and girls and educational opportunities are open to women up to the end of the university level.

Housing: Over the past years, housing and construction development have expanded considerably. This has helped to increase the availability of good housing for families and to reduce rents to normal levels.

Financial services: The Saudi Credit Bank (SCB) plays an effective role in providing financial facilities to Saudi family members intending marriage. Many Saudi youth have been provided with loans to encourage them to marry.

SENEGAL

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Madame NDioro Ndiaye Ministre de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille Présidente du Comité National de Coordination de l'Année Internationale de la Famille Cellule Famille BP. 4050, Dakar	Mme. Diago Ndiaye Responsable Permanent A.I.F. Ministère de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille du Sénégal Cellule Famille BP. 4050, Dakar

NATIONAL ACTION

In January 1992, the Minister of Women, Children and the Family created a National Committee to co-ordinate the International Year of the Family activities, involving representatives of concerned ministries, institutions, associations and non-governmental organizations. The Committee includes five commissions:

(i) The scientific commission;
(ii) The commission for programming;
(iii) The financial commission;
(iv) The press and media commission; and
(v) The organizing commission.

The governments of 10 regions, in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Children and the Family, are in the process of creating regional committees presided over by the governors of the regions.

From 14 to 18 November 1991, the Ministry of Women, Children and the Family held a seminar, which produced the National Guidelines for the Family, aimed at:

(i) Promoting the social and economic development of the family; and
(ii) Enhancing the status of the family, socially and culturally.

At its 13th meeting, the National Committee on Women chose as its theme, "The Productive Family", and discussed several topics, among them:

- Family, health, and AIDS;
- The important role of basic education;
- The role of the family in the process of development;
- Promotion of the socio-economic situation of families in Senegal; and
- The role of women in the success of the project, "The Productive Family".

In addition, the Ministry decided to (1) finance a few productive family projects; (2) to provide families and groups with basic agricultural equipment in rural areas; and (3) to establish kindergartens in the villages.

The National Co-ordinating Committee, together with the Ministry of Women, Children and the Family, has organized a seminar to prepare a national action plan for the family. The Committee has also asked the Senegalese authorities to launch a national day of the family.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Special events for the Year in Senegal include:

1) National launching of the IYF (December 1993);
2) Media campaigns and awareness raising;
3) Collogium/round-tables/conferences on:
    - Families and migration;
    - The Third Age;
    - Families and Literacy (*15ème Quinzaine de la Femme*).
4) Public concert (April 1994);
5) Seminars on such themes as:
    - Family Health and Social Protection;
    - Families and Poverty.
6) Celebration/observance of the International Day of Families (15 May 1994);
7) Celebration of 20 June as the Day for African Refugees with presentation of a study on the conditions of life of refugee families;
8) Sports activities, including a Football Tournament;
9) Convening a Senegalese NGO Forum on the Family (October 1994);
10) Evaluation activities to review the International Year of the Family in Senegal.

SEYCHELLES

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
National IYF Committee Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs Social Affairs Division P.O. Box 350, Oceangate House Victoria	Ms. A. Jolicouer Director General - Social Affairs Social Affairs Division Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs P.O. Box 350, Oceangate House Victoria

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NATIONAL ACTION

The National Coordinating Committee for the IYF, through the Ministry of Employment and Social Affairs, has finalized an Action Plan and Calendar of Events in observance of the International Year of the Family.

The National Coordinating Committee will use the IYF as an opportunity to sensitize the general public on the vital role of families as basic units of society and their responsibilities vis-à-vis their members, particularly those who are vulnerable.

Among other actions, a series of television programmes have been planned to mark the Year.

SIERRA LEONE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ms. Pesseh N'jai, Chairperson
Social Services Division
Department of Health and Social Services
National Committee for the
International Year of the Family
New England
Freetown

FOCAL POINT

Ms. Pesseh N'jai
Social Services Division
Department of Health and
Social Services
New England
Freetown

NATIONAL ACTION

In 1993, the Government of Sierra Leone established a Committee for the International Year of the Family to prepare for the national observance of the Year.

The IYF will be observed in Sierra Leone against the backdrop of numerous pressing issues, identified by the Government in the context of the Year. Priority concerns include deterioration in the economy with consequent adverse effects on the educational standard in the country and health. High rates of fertility have also been identified as a concern, particularly in those situations where having many children is desired to assure a measure of security in older age. Contributing factors include the relatively low status and education of women, low levels of contraceptive use, and high levels of infant and child mortality.

The Government has also identified priority concerns in respect to high levels of rural to urban migration, which is placing serious pressures on infrastructure and social services.

The Government has expressed the view that families must be given priority as a prerequisite for national development in both the social and economic realms. The centrality of families to the development process is underscored by the role of families in bringing up children and their supportive role in the educational development of the coming generations. Because of the realities of family life, improving the role of families in national development is also considered to be synonymous with improving the role and the status of women.

There have been only a few programmes on the family as a unit in Sierra Leone; however, programmes based on maternal and child health and family planning are now being implemented. In recognition of the fact that women and children have special needs and concerns, a Division for Maternal and Child Health was established within the Ministry of Health in 1974, its main concerns being to provide ante- and post-natal care, family planning, and health services, such as immunization.

The Government has been directly responsible for implementing two major family planning projects - the first, Family Health Institution, was financed by USAID, but terminated in 1987. The second project was the Family Advisory Service, initiated in 1980, and terminated in 1990, to make way for the new National Family Planning Programme, which is to be launched by the Government. In addition, a number of non-governmental organizations offer family planning services on a limited scale.

Disparities between men and women regarding education have been identified as a priority concern.

The Government has expressed its commitment to make the family the most important unit and instrument in its development efforts. To facilitate its work toward IYF goals and objectives, the National Committee has created sub-committees on:

1) Advocacy and Publicity;
2) Education and Research; and
3) Fund-raising and Co-ordination.

SINGAPORE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
National Advisory Council on Family and the Aged (NACFA) Ministry of Community Development 7th Storey, MCD Building 512 Thompson Road Singapore	Miss Ang Bee Lian, Secretary National Advisory Council on Family and the Aged (NACFA) Ministry of Community Development 7th Storey, MCD Building 512 Thompson Road Singapore

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Government designated the National Advisory Council on Family and the Aged (NACFA) to serve as Singapore's national monitoring body for the International Year of the Family. The Council comprises representatives from Government and non-governmental sectors, as well as private individuals. A special multi-disciplinary Working Committee has been appointed by NACFA to look into the preparations for and observance of the Year. This Committee includes representatives from five Ministries and various non-governmental groups, including the media, trade unions and other sectors.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The Working Committee is considering plans to observe the Year. Government policies attach much importance to the well-being of the family. Since 1985, Singapore has set aside one Sunday each year as "Family Day". In 1988, the Government set up six Advisory Councils, each headed by a Senior Cabinet Minister, to identify issues and make recommendations on policies and measures in the following areas: (a) family and community life; (b) aged; (c) disabled persons; (d) youth; (e) sports and recreation; and (f) culture. The recommendations of these Advisory Councils have formed the basis for the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes in these areas.

In the area of the family, the Advisory Council on Family and Community Life was assigned the tasks of identifying socio-economic trends affecting families and family life; to examine how family life and family functions can be enhanced to enable families to meet the challenges of change; to review existing programmes and services; and to recommend policies and measures on the family to the Government. Those included:

(a) Family formation and procreation;
(b) Family relationships and the role of the family;
(c) Transmission of values;
(d) Support services for families;
(e) Employment of women;
(f) Family life and education programmes;
(g) Leisure and recreation for families;
(h) Legislative provisions and requirements; and
(i) Problems of disadvantaged families.

Priorities arising from the Advisory Council's recommendations include:

(a) Development of more community-based and residential-based facilities in the areas of child care centres, family service centres, and day care facilities for the dependent aged and disabled persons;

(b) Forging closer links between governmental and non-governmental agencies so as to achieve improved delivery of services to the community and the family;

(c) Establishment of a Family Resource and Training Centre to supply training and consultation services to providers of family services;

(d) Promotion of more intensive family life and public education programmes to improve family life;

(e) Development of facilities for family leisure and recreation to promote family interaction; and

(f) Development of programmes and services to assist disadvantaged and low income families.

To ensure an ongoing focus on issues affecting families and the aged and to monitor implementation of the Advisory Council's recommendations, the National Advisory Council on Family and the Aged (NACFA) was established. NACFA, which is responsible for the IYF in Singapore, has a mandate to:

(a) coordinate and monitor progress on implementation of the Advisory Council's recommendations;

(b) overcome barriers faced by governmental and non-governmental organizations in implementing recommendations;

(c) coordinate multi-sectoral activities to ensure development of the broadest possible base of service.

(d) identify options to fill service gaps and meet emergent needs of families and the elderly;

(e) advise on evaluative research/studies to ensure relevance and quality of programmes;

(f) advise on public awareness education and dissemination of information;

(g) develop, promote and implement a national programme of activities for observance of the International Year of the Family.

Among the various public awareness activities of the Working Committee for the IYF was the production and distribution of a special song commemorating the Year.

SLOVAK REPUBLIC

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Mrs. Olga Keltošová National Coordinating Committee for IYF Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Bratislava	Dr. Zuzana Vranova Co-ordinator for IYF in the Slovak Republic Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family Bratislava

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Slovak Government has appointed the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family as the head and main co-ordinator of all activities concerned with the preparation and observance of the International Year of the Family at the governmental level.

Much importance has been attached to the participation of the voluntary and private organizations and associations in focusing on IYF. The Slovak Republic has prepared for IYF observance at the national level by:

(ii) Setting up a national programme of IYF activities; the non-governmental organizations have been invited to participate, and their activities to help families have been supported;
(iii) Establishing a National Co-ordinating Committee to serve as a national focal point and as co-ordinator for the IYF activities.

A new factor is the Honorary Committee for the IYF, the members of which include the First Lady of the country, the Minister of Labour, Social Affairs and Family, and well-known Slovak artists, academics and church dignitaries. Regional IYF committees have also been set up.

All these co-ordinating bodies disseminate information on the IYF to appropriate interest groups, the press, the public authorities, etc. The main concern is to ensure that the IYF does not become centralized, but that events and initiatives concerned with everyday family life are also implemented locally.

The Slovak Government is preparing new laws and regulations in social affairs, closely linked to the family. New systems of social insurance, social support for families and women and State support, are being prepared.

The most important IYF event in Slovakia is the launching of the Bratislava International Centre for Family Studies (BICFS), at present financed from the budget of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family and from voluntary contributions.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The Slovak IYF activities will revolve around the BICFS, and will include the following:

(i) Creating a data base about the Slovak family;
(ii) Obtaining information on international family research;
(iii) Building up a specialist library;
(iv) Publishing an Information Bulletin of the Centre, and the Annual "State of the Family Report".

The following seminars have been held:

(i) On 27 November 1993, in co-operation with the NGO - Prometheus Society - a seminar "For the Healthy, Happy and Modern Family"; and
(ii) On 9-10 December 1993 an international seminar, "Ethics in the Family and Society", in connection with a special ceremony to launch the IYF in Slovakia.

The Centre's plans for 1994 include:

(i) A symposium, "Slovak Families Living Abroad";
(ii) A workshop, "Nationally Mixed Families";
(iii) In connection with the 5th World Congress on Family Therapy, a workshop on family therapy issues;
(iv) A seminar on international adoption, in co-operation with the Centre for the International Legal Defence of Children;
(v) Issuing of special stamps for the IYF and an exhibition of stamps entitled "The Family on Stamps";
(vi) A competition, followed by an exhibition, "The Family in Photography"; and
(vii) Issuing an IYF medal in Slovakia.

The Co-ordinating Committee for the IYF will organize:

(i) Special competitions and performances for families in co-operation with famous Slovak artists, actors, etc. The Slovak Philharmonic is organizing a cycle of family concerts. Many special cultural events, such as visiting Slovak castles and exhibitions of Slovak crafts will take place;
(ii) In co-operation with NGOs, seminars and workshops will be held on family affairs in all regions of the country; financial support will be granted.

The NGOs that are concerned with family issues may apply for financial support from a special budget for IYF events administered by the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family.

The Co-ordinating Committee for the IYF has elaborated a plan for IYF publicity activities at both national and international levels (TV and radio programmes, posters, badges with the IYF logo, etc.). The IYF Committee is preparing to celebrate 15 May 1994 as the International Day of Families at the national level, involving NGOs, the public and private sectors.

The Slovak IYF Co-ordinating Committee, in co-operation with the BICFS, has planned a final international conference for the end of 1994.

SLOVENIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Council for the
International Year of the Family
State Secretary
Sector for Family
Ministry for Labour, Family
and Social Affairs
Štefanova 5
61000 Ljubljana

FOCAL POINT

Mr. Drago Čepar, State Secretary
Sector for Family
Ministry for Labour, Family
and Social Affairs
Štefanova 5
61000 Ljubljana

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of the Republic of Slovenia has appointed a National Council for the IYF which has prepared for and is actively implementing a programme of observances in the country, led by the Ministry for Labour, Family and Social Affairs. The IYF is seen in Slovenia as an opportunity to reinforce efforts to improve the situation of families and address priority issues and strengthen existing measures in support of families. The long-term policy in the field of family is laid out in the recently-adopted "Resolution concerning the Basis of Family Policy in the Republic of Slovenia" (June 1993). In addition, the protection of the family has been included in the Constitution of the new State of Slovenia.

The characteristic trends which illustrate issues in the family situation in Slovenia are:

(i) A smaller size of the family and the household;
(ii) A decrease in the quality of family life for much of the population;
(iii) A high degree of employment of both parents;
(iv) Tendencies towards varied family forms and family life styles - an increase of one-parent families, cohabitation among the young, etc.

Three types of programmes are being carried out:

(i) Those which contribute to the material security of families, such as financial support for children from low-income families; subsidies for housing costs, family pensions, etc.,
(ii) Those which help families by developing low-cost and non-profit social services; and
(iii) Mechanisms that have a special place in the system of partial compensation for families supporting children, such as tax reductions, and a child care allowance.

1994 will see the enforcement of the Law on Family Income. The law was adopted by Parliament, in November 1993, and came into force on 18 December 1993. This law is the first step in the implementation of the June 1993 Resolution. The law governs issues relating to parental leave during the child's first year.

Children with physical or mental disabilities will be entitled to a higher child supplement for the parents. The Ministry of Education and Sport will prepare the law on pre-school education, which will settle forms of care and education for pre-school children. The education programme will include awareness-raising on relations between the sexes and provide equal opportunities for both men and women.

The Ministry of Health will focus special attention on the education of young people towards a healthy sex life and responsible parenthood. Through a programme of clinical treatment of new-born babies and mothers, the health care centres will provide information on proper care, hygiene and nutrition. The Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs will propose and finance a research study regarding housing under the present system. The Ministry will organize welfare centres to deal with cases of extreme violence or accidents in families. Round-table meetings and seminars on various family issues will also be organized.

In addition to its many substantive activities, the National Council has undertaken a number of promotional and awareness-raising measures, including translation of United Nations information materials into Slovene, distribution of posters and other information.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The IYF in the Solomon Islands will be observed in the context of existing issues and programmes for families in the country. Some of the problems identified by the Government in the context of the Year include:

(1) Urban migration: notably in those cases where people move with their families or most family members to urban areas in search of employment, often becoming squatters, living in very crowded conditions;

(2) Poor families: particularly in urban areas;

(3) Education: particularly concerning too few secondary schools;

(4) Health and malnutrition, including malaria and epidemics such as influenza, measles, and certain tropical diseases.

The Solomon Islands Government, together with non-governmental organizations and the churches, try to address the complex problems faced by families, including:

(a) Overcrowding in homes in squatting areas;
(b) Unhygienic water supplies;
(c) Unhygienic sanitation systems;
(d) Insufficient schools; and
(e) Insufficient health services.

Various policies have been drawn up by Government ministries to combat the many problems faced by families. Some of these have already been passed, while others are still in draft form.

SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Secretariat Committee for Marriage and Family Life (CMF) Private Bag X828 Pretoria	Professor Frieda Pancisco-la Grange Chairperson Committee for Marriage and Family Life (CMF) Private Bag X828 Pretoria

NATIONAL ACTION

The South African Welfare Council and regional welfare boards - statutory bodies consisting of members from the private welfare sector - have been assigned the task of implementing the National Plan for Family Life that the Cabinet had approved in 1987. The Council subsequently appointed the Committee for Marriage and Family Life (CMF) to realize, in conjunction with partners at national, regional and local levels, the aims and objectives of the National Plan. The proclamation of the International Year of the Family appropriately fitted in with the programme of the CMF.

The CMF, a multi-national body, consists of family-oriented persons from the public and private sectors. Its members are drawn from various professions, including social work, education, the health professions, social research, communications and religion. The Committee is responsible for preparing measures with regard to the International Year of the Family, and a Planning Committee is operating as a CMF sub-committee.

The policy of the CMF is that the National Plan for Family Life and its IYF observances must be continually decentralized so as to reach the grass-roots level; thus, much attention has been paid to publicizing the plan - thousands of brochures, posters, and hand-bills have been distributed in multiple languages. Media coverage and regional meetings have also been used to enlist involvement with the IYF.

Sixteen regional meetings were convened on family life issues, drawing on input from community members and leaders. Some of the problems identified for action include: high divorce rates; family violence; child neglect and sexual abuse; alcoholism and drug addiction. Political uncertainties have had a considerable impact on family life, at present aggravated by an economic recession, large-scale unemployment, poverty and drought. Grass-roots needs in the field of marriage and family life are some of the issues to be addressed at a working conference in 1994. With the input of experts from various social sectors, the results of the regional meetings are to be implemented in nine sectors, in observance of the IYF. These sectors are Government; social welfare and community organizations; health; education; religion; commerce and industry; mining; media and organized agriculture.

The CMF has undertaken an information campaign augmented by a regular newsletter on the International Year of the Family, encouraging community level action and exchanging information on programmes that reflect the involvement and progress of participants in the International Year of the Family. Among events to observe the Year, an exhibition of children's art will tour South Africa in 1994 on the theme "Family Life".

SPAIN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Comité Español para el Año Internacional de la Familia Secretaria: Ms. Paz Thiebaut, Jefa del Servicio de Familia del Centro de Estudios del Menor Condesa de Venadito, 34 28027 Madrid	D. Ernesto López Méndez Director del Centro de Estudios del Menor Dirección General de Protección Juridica del Menor Ministerio de Asuntos Sociales Condesa de Venadito, 34 28027 Madrid

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Spanish Committee has been established under the Honorary Presidency of H.M. The Queen of Spain and the Executive Presidency of the Minister of Social Affairs. The Head of the Family Service, Directorate General of Legal Protection of the Minors, Ministry of Social Affairs, serves as Secretary to the Committee. Representatives, at the Director General level, of numerous ministries take part, including: Ministries of the President; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Foreign Affairs; Culture; Economy and Finance; Education and Science; Interior; Justice; Public Works; Transport and Environment; Health and Consumption; Labour and Social Security. Members of the Ministry of Social Affairs include: Under-Secretary of Social Affairs; S.G. of Royal Trust for Prevention and Care of the Disabled; Director Generals of the Youth Institute, Inserso, Social Action, Women's Institute; and Director of the Ministers' Office. Representatives of the seventeen (17) autonomous communities of the Spanish State sit on the committee as do representatives of the Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, twenty-one (21) NGOs, and seven (7) personalities and prominent experts.

Programmes and Events for the IYF

The Ministry of Social Affairs has drawn up a Schedule of Activities for the IYF, which is intended to be of a flexible nature and open to the inclusion of initiatives that may be organized by other echelons for the observance of the Year.

The main lines of action of the Schedule of Activities are:

(1) "Make Spanish society aware of the basic principles and aims inspiring the IYF and create a favourable environment for them".

(2) "Encourage the production and dissemination of knowledge in relation to the present situation of families in Spain and the dimensions and functions that characterize the family as a social setting for communal living, emotional support and social cohesion, and as a source of opportunities and, at times, of risks for its members". This includes the drafting and dissemination of a comprehensive report on "The situation of the family in Spain", involving prominent experts from Spanish universities. Publications will also be issued and presented on: parent-child relationships; partners and married couples; fostering and residential care of children in the European Community; a century of Spanish Childhood; socialization processes in the family; sexual abuse of minors; child care services needs; risk and protection factors for child abuse; child abuse and disability; and siblings of children with special needs.

A manual for the solution of parent-child problems and a guide to Children's Rights will also be published.

Another important element of this line of action is the preparation, design and holding of a travelling Exhibition on the "Family and Society".

Among the research projects being carried out in connection with the Year are studies on: child abuse; values and attitudes in the family socialization of boys and girls; attitudes, benefits, beliefs and opinions of the population at large in relation to the raising of children; informal aid for the elderly (a training, information and assistance guidebook aimed at families with elderly people in their care will result from the latter study).

(3) "Encourage favourable attitudes and behaviour patterns in the members of the family in Spanish society vis-à-vis different family structures, the individual rights of family members, personal promotion, distribution of responsibilities, the balance between working and family life, inter-generational solidarity, and styles of communication, based on a democratic dialogue". This line of action covers the organization of conferences, meetings and other gatherings for reflection and production, including, in particular, an International Conference, organized in conjunction with the Council of Europe on the subject of "Childhood, Family and Participation", in December 1994.

Other international meetings include workshops on: "The relationship between the media and the family setting", "Family, childhood and new technologies in audiovisual communication", "The right to privacy and the media"; "Family Law", "The distribution of family responsibilities and reconciliation of family and working life".

Also included in this line of action is the design, official presentation and development of the "Family and Childhood" Award.

(4) "Promote active involvement amongst the Spanish child, adolescent and juvenile populations in the activities of the IYF and in the changes in attitudes and behaviour patterns, in keeping with the principles and aims of the IYF". Principal activities in this line of action will be the running of preventive programmes aimed at adolescents and youth in connection with road accidents, violence, racism, alcohol consumption, sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS, underlining the family's great preventive potential.

(5) "Involve the mass media in the promotion of the principles and aims of the IYF and in the configuration of a cultural climate with values in accordance with these". A working party has also been established, composed of professionals from the media, on the subject of the media and the IYF.

SUDAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
The Under-Secretary Ministry of Social Welfare and Development, Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Observance of the International Year of the Family P.O. Box 2663, Khartoum	The Under-Secretary Ministry of Social Welfare and Development Chairman of the Steering Committee for the Observance of the International Year of the Family P.O. Box 2663, Khartoum

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NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The IYF will be observed in Sudan in the context of ongoing and current activities for families in the country.

State policy regarding the family is governed by the Comprehensive National Strategy, which has, as one of its basic social objectives, care for the family, by strengthening its abilities and potentials and promotion of its role in society.

The following are the main priorities of the Strategy:

(1) Fighting poverty through the Productive Families Programme;

(2) Addressing social problems such as homelessness, begging, and drug abuse;

(3) Mobilizing the women's sector and developing women's abilities for active involvement in building the family and society;

(4) Mobilizing and organizing voluntary, charitable and humanitarian works;

(5) Providing care for the elderly;

(6) Training, in order to promote action in the various areas of family development;

(7) Carrying out studies and research on family issues.

The Strategy for social welfare and development includes a major programme for the family, which consists of:

(1) Developing and implementing programmes to promote the family, to arouse public awareness regarding health, nutrition, education, the law, personal statutes, and family circumstances;

(2) Studying behavioural and consumer habits and action to combat negative aspects;

(3) Introducing social service curricula in institutes of general and higher education;

(4) Providing assistance to poor families with disabled persons to safeguard their life within the family;

(5) Establishing productive, co-operative family societies at all levels, and providing the necessary facilities;

(6) Studies to identify the economic and social effects of extended families, and their needs in housing and welfare;

(7) Family ownership of production means incurred by the Productive Families Programmes; and

(8) Establishing family clubs in urban areas; spreading family centres; and providing family welfare and guidance programmes through these clubs and centres.

A major programme has also been developed for women, including protective laws, establishment of documentation agencies for women's affairs, legal advisory services, credit support of women's development projects, literacy programmes, higher education, jurisprudence improved nutrition, child education, training of female action leaders, and protection from AIDS.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The Sudan welcomed the declaration of the IYF as it confirmed the correctness of the direction it pursued. Measures were promptly taken to spread information about the IYF, and Sudan has prepared a programme of national action, with the participation of a Co-ordinating Committee composed of specialists, representatives from the media, lawyers and others. The Committee has prepared plans for the IYF that include programmes for economic, cultural, health, social and legislative aspects, aimed at improving the family situation and that of women and children.

The plan includes seminars for the study of the family in Sudan and its effect on the protection of mothers and children; customs and traditions that are harmful to the family; laws concerning the family system; the developmental dimensions of the family; the national strategy in the domains of the family; health, education, culture and the problems of persons in particularly difficult circumstances.

One of the major programmes included in the plan of IYF observances is dissemination of information on national objectives to be achieved concerning families. This latter aspect involves all the media - TV, radio, and the press - to arouse public awareness of and interest in the family.

The programme also includes the distribution, throughout the nation, of printed materials on the family, children, mothers and women. The Sudanese Broadcasting Service will produce two weekly programmes on the family of a duration of one half an hour each. The Television Service presents a weekly half-hour programme on the family, in addition to seminars and interviews which are broadcast on the occasion of international and national events. There are also special programmes for women and children.

IYF observances will be implemented at the national, states, provincial, and local council levels.

SURINAME

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ms. R. Wijdenbosch, Chairperson
National Committee on the
International Year of the Family
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Gravenstraat 6
Paramaribo

FOCAL POINT

Mr. K. Moevli, Vice-Chairperson
National Committee on the
International Year of the Family
c/o Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Gravenstraat 6
Paramaribo

NATIONAL ACTION

The Minister of Welfare established a National Committee on the Year of the Family, headed by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and consisting of 15 members, representing various ministries and non-governmental organizations. Those include the Ministries of Education, Foreign Affairs, Health, Internal Affairs, Justice and Police, and Welfare; as well as the non-governmental organizations: the Forum, the Foundation "Lotjeshuis" (for undernourished children), the Family Planning Association "Stichting Lobi", the Committee of Christian Churches; the Hindu Committee; and the Moslem Committee.

The Committee has chosen as its main national theme for the IYF, "The Family in Changing Socio-Economic Circumstances". The Committee will implement the following activities:

(i) An awareness campaign to inform the people of Suriname on the meaning and importance of the IYF;

(ii) A study on the effects of macro-economic changes on family life, types and structures;

(iii) A study on the problems related to the various family types and structures and the quality of family life;

(iv) To study existing family-related legislation and the need for legal reforms in this area;

(v) To encourage measures aimed at strengthening the role of the family in society;

SURINAME - 2

(vi) To increase the capability of families to fulfil their needs;

(vii) To increase the sense of inter-related responsibilities within families with the aim of contributing to solving family problems without legal intervention;

(viii) To encourage the exchange of ideas in the society on the roles of men and women in the family, especially with regard to their shared responsibilities for the education and care of the children;

(ix) To advise the Government on the need to establish an institute for the co-ordination of family-related activities.

SWEDEN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Ministry of Health and Social Affairs The Swedish National Committee for the International Year of the Family (NCS-IYF) Jakobsgatan 26 S-103 33 Stockholm	Ms. Birgit Arve-Parès Socialvetenskapliga Forskningsrådet Box 2220 Järntorget 84 S-103 15 Stockholm

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NATIONAL ACTION

The Swedish Committee for the International Year of the Family was established in 1992 as an inter-Ministerial Committee, representing the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, Health and Social Affairs, Finance, Labour, Culture and Public Administration. The Committee, having finalized the Programme of Action, has entered a new phase of implementation where co-ordinating activities, in co-operation with public administration and NGOs, are a main concern. Implementation activities include promotion, information, co-ordination and documentation. Since April 1993, the Committee has included representatives from the Ministry of Education and the Council for Social Research.

The basic principle of Sweden's participation in the International Year of the Family is that national observances of the IYF are to be seen as part of an ongoing, long-term activity within the framework of Swedish Family Policy. An action plan provides an opportunity for taking stock of what is being done in Sweden in various sectors. Therefore, at the introductory phase, the Swedish action plan has been made to focus primarily on knowledge inventory, information, research and international co-operation.

Consistent with this principle, the Swedish Committee for the International Year of the Family has adopted a National Programme of Action, which is oriented towards inventory, research and information on family matters and issues of interest for family policy.

A first promotional activity for the dissemination of the Swedish Programme of Action was initiated in May 1993 by a conference inaugurated by the Minister of Health and Social Affairs. Public administrations and non-governmental organizations have participated in preparation for the Year. A booklet with information about the IYF and the Swedish Programme of Action, as well as a Newsletter, have been issued. Both will also be available in English.

Basic to these issues is a concern with the implementation of democratic values and welfare goals, such as individual freedom, social and gender equality, children's rights in the present setting of demographic change, ideological re-orientations and economic uncertainty.

A review of existing research and development activities in the area is under way, with a view to making these findings and experiences available to the public. Initiatives have been taken to stimulate research in family-related programmes at the national and local levels. Among these are programmes for:

(i) Promoting equality between men and women;
(ii) Strengthening family ties, especially father-child relationships, irrespective of family structure;
(iii) Assessing the quality of child care and support systems; and
(iv) Reinforcing the coping capacity of families in distress.

The Ministry of Social Affairs will host, in late spring 1994, an international meeting of experts on the topic of the "Family and Social Change". Financial support has been given for the project Families Across the World, and for Sweden's participation in the International Union of Family Organizations (IUFO).

Preparatory work for the International Year of the Family was coordinated with Sweden's participation in the European Year of the Elderly and Solidarity between Generations, observed in 1993.

Goals for the Swedish Action Plan include:

(i) To visualize and highlight Sweden's diversity and complexity of family life in 1994, enhance understanding of lifestyle differences across cultural boundaries and in different life structures;
(ii) To stress the importance of general family support and legislation for equal opportunities and democracy and for a family's welfare and quality of life;
(iii) To promote preventive and supportive measures for: providing parental education, child care and schools, family counselling and the individual and family care provided by social services; by shedding light on the importance of family links and their dependence on outward conditions in various contexts of living;
(iv) To contribute towards a long-term awareness concerning family living conditions in modern Swedish society; and
(v) To include the Swedish experience in international debate and to promote an international interchange of experience.

Themes proposed for Swedish national action in the Year include:

(a) Family Life in Sweden: Measures are proposed for compiling and disseminating knowledge of family structures and family life.

(b) Swedish Family Policy in Historical and International Contexts: including research on the evolution of policy and its effects on the Swedish family.

(c) Preventative measures to support parenthood and the integration of children and youth. Five sub-areas have been identified for preventative measures of various kinds. These include:

(1) The family and working life: measures are proposed concerning the repercussions of unemployment of family life; the organization of working life in relation to parents' needs; and measures to strengthen the links between fathers and children, e.g. through parental education, etc.

(2) Family break-up and divorce: concerning the break-up of families both as a process and as a state. Knowledge inventory, statistical development and studies of family disintegration and divorce are proposed. Preventive measures and support for families before, during and after a divorce, are also proposed; especially measures to co-ordinate community support and contacts with various agencies in connection with the divorce and measures to support single-parent households and divorced fathers, e.g. through network activities and voluntary measures.

(3) Growing in and out of the family: measures are proposed to develop social networks and environments which can supplement and co-operate with the family during the development process of young persons. Initiatives are proposed to reduce age-related segregation and to strengthen the links between the generations, as well as measures to support parents in their parental role and young persons when they are undertaking to find adult roles of their own.

(4) Growing into Swedish society: concerned with the specific problems of various immigrant groups regarding social conditions, roots, culture transmission and integration into Swedish society. Special measures are proposed to augment non-governmental activities at refugee receptions. Proposals include knowledge inventories and measures to draw attention to the situation of immigrant women, the occurrence of "mixed conditions", the high divorce rate of certain groups and family conditions connected with the care of elderly immigrants by their next-of-kin.

(5) The family for good or ill - children's rights in families under strain: proposes measures for protecting children and parents in situations of crisis. Concerns in this area also include children's rights and parents' obligations and the boundaries between community responsibility and parental integrity when the family comes under strain.

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	FOCAL POINT
National Committee for the International Year of the Family Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour Damascus	Minister of Social Affairs Chairman National Committee for the IYF c/o Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic 820 Second Avenue, 10th Floor New York, N.Y. 10017, USA

NATIONAL ACTION

On 25 July 1992, a National Committee was set up to plan and co-ordinate the activities of the Syrian Arab Republic for the International Year of the Family, under the presidency of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. Its membership consists of representatives from Government agencies and civic organizations.

The Committee held a number of meetings to plan for future activities on the occasion of the IYF. These activities include:

(1) An emphasis on family education, in particular the education of women as the pivot of the family, with special attention to rural women;

(2) Devoting special attention to the health and social aspects of life of all family members;

(3) Studying the conditions of family life in the country through field investigations covering social, cultural, economic and health aspects;

(4) Obtaining from UNESCO anything that it has carried out concerning studies and research on family care, and translating any appropriate material into Arabic;

(5) Organizing, in co-ordination with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour and other institutions concerned, seminars on family-related themes;

(6) Seeking financial resources for the IYF to implement the proposed activities, from various sources, including the UNFPA;

(7) Organizing training courses for senior personnel, and to consolidate the structure of the National Federation for Women;

(8) Exchanging with other countries, relevant information and visits to gather information on similar activities;

(9) Seeking technical assistance from Arab and other international organizations;

(10) Expanding and developing services provided to families to cover as many sectors as possible, and to meet new and growing family needs; seeing to it that such services include both rural and urban areas; and

(11) Promoting the IYF motto through planning for better standards of living to enable the family to invest and develop its resources and to carry out its responsibilities as the basic unit of society.

THAILAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

National Committee on the Family
Office of the Permanent Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Bangkok 10300

FOCAL POINT

Dr. Sailuree Chutikul
Chairperson
National Committee on the Family
National Commission on Women's Affairs (NCWA)
Office of the Prime Minister
Government House
Bangkok 10300

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The family has always been an important component of the Thai culture, but it is only within the last two decades that special attention has been given to family development within the context of socio-economic planning, either by Government agencies or by non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions, e.g. programmes on child rearing, sex education and family planning. The International Year of the Family will be observed in Thailand in the context of such existing and ongoing family initiatives.

In the course of rapid economic and social changes of recent years, the National Commission on Women's Affairs (NCWA) took the initiative in 1990 of proposing to the Council of Ministers that a National Family Day be established on 14 April every year.

In this connection, a National Committee on the Family was created. Its functions are:

(i) To formulate guidelines for family development; (ii) to coordinate and carry out activities to commemorate the annual Family Day; (iii) to organize public campaigns on family development; (iv) to prepare plans and activities to observe the 1994 International Year of the Family; and (v) to carry out other related duties entrusted to it by the National Commission on Women's Affairs.

Accomplishments and continuing activities include:

(1) A campaign to strengthen the family: The Committee, in collaboration with private groups and NGOs, produced publicity stickers and posters

to be displayed on cars and public transport. Essay contests, drawing and painting contests for young people were organized.

(2) To focus on the roles of fathers in family development: Special emphasis through seminars and discussions has been placed on the roles of fathers as partners both in child rearing and in sharing household work.

(3) Articles on the family for radio and publications: A special committee prepared five-minute articles to be read once a week on Radio Thailand. These will be collated and published in a booklet for teachers, parents and others.

(4) Information, studies and research on the family: This includes gathering information on the family situation and its problems.

(5) Analysis of family laws: This analysis includes studies on the legal rights of the family.

(6) Promotion of family education and family services: The Ministries of Public Health and Education are planning to open up family counselling services in the provinces and communities.

(7) Work of the NGOs: The NGOs have initiated many services for those facing family problems and violence, including psychological and legal counselling services.

(8) Universities, and the Women in Development Consortium in Thailand (WIDCIT): These have organized training sessions for public servants and NGO personnel to help develop an awareness of the family situation in both rural and urban areas.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Activities to promote the IYF 1994 include:

(i) A National Assembly on the Family, where it is hoped that family policies and programmes will be approved and sent to the Council of Ministers to be used as national guidelines;

(ii) Revision of laws and regulations to facilitate family development;

(iii) More counselling services to be made available for families;

(iv) More stress on eliminating domestic violence against women and children;

(v) Further emphasis on the importance of fathers in the family and their share of household burdens;

(vi) Revision of the curriculum at various levels to include the rights of families, women and children;

(vii) Production of TV series to promote the IYF;

(viii) Radio programmes to publicize the activities of the National Committee on the Family;

(ix) Distribution of leaflets, brochures and posters to promote the theme of love and understanding within the family;

(x) Promotional articles to be circulated in various periodicals;

(xi) Co-operation with the Communication Authority of Thailand to have slogans stamped on articles sent through the post;

(xii) Encouraging local communities to commemorate the IYF;

(xiii) Encouraging research on the family by various research institutions; and

(xiv) Contributing to the Voluntary Fund for the IYF.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

Director
National Family Services Division
Secretariat to the National
Co-ordinating Body for the IYF
Ministry of Consumer Affairs
and Social Services
Port of Spain
Trinidad

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to social development through a Family Life Movement which utilizes a totally participatory approach, involving men, women, and youth, each with a central role in motivating the effort. All families in rural and urban areas, especially pockets of social deprivation and children and families in difficult circumstances, are targeted. Other priority issues for consideration in the context of the IYF include: alcohol and other substance abuse, unplanned teenage pregnancies, child abuse, domestic violence and AIDS, and criminal activity among youth. Such problems are compounded by high unemployment rates, low standards of living and difficulties in both inter- and intra-familial relationships.

The objectives will be met through implementing the following three basic programmes:

(i) Promoting Healthy Life Styles, encompassing issues such as: nutrition; responsible sexual practices; maternal and child care; substance abuse, child abuse and domestic violence; sports and recreation; harmonious social relationships; and cultural development.

(ii) Family Life Management, including:

- Fertility management; (delaying early pregnancy, determination of desired family size, spacing of children); financial management; child care and protection; catering to the needs of special children; adolescent health care; care of the elderly and disabled persons; mutual support within the family; welfare of children in institutions; and protection of children at risk of abuse and neglect.

(iii) Development and Promotion of moral and social values

To carry out family-oriented policies and programmes, under the aegis of the International Year of the Family, the State apparatus has been organized through:

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Social Services, which includes Social Welfare, Legal Aid and Probation.

A National Family Services Co-ordinating Council, whose prime responsibilities are, among others, to bring together Government and non-governmental agencies to maximize the effectiveness of welfare services; to offer the opportunity for the community to pose resources for public education and encourage participation; and establish international links to benefit from the experiences and research efforts of others.

The National Family Services Division, which functions as the Secretariat to the Co-ordinating Council and collects national information and data related to the present situation of families, prepares profiles, identifies issues and encourages incorporation of family programmes into national development strategies.

In 1992, a National Co-ordinating Body was created to prepare for the observance of the International Year of the Family, and to plan and harmonize activities of both Governmental and non-governmental organizations involved in the IYF preparations.

a) The Secretariat to the National Coordinating Body (the National Family Services Division) mobilizes human and financial resources for the implementation of the national programme of activities for the Year, as well as research and documentation of family-related issues;

(b) Regional Committees, comprising local representatives of non-governmental organizations, prepare and implement IYF activities at the community level;

(c) Sectoral Committees within the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, have been formed to address issues confronting the family in relation to the school and health systems;

(d) A Public Relations Committee is responsible for disseminating information on the objectives of and activities for the Year as well as for all promotional activities. This Committee comprises representatives from the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Social Services, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education.

It is hoped that the IYF celebrations will provide an opportunity for increased mobilization of the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Specific policies and activities designed by the Government include health care with emphasis on primary health matters and family planning; education; community development with an emphasis on women's issues; and revising and evolving law reforms related to the Child and the Family.

Government research is undertaken on: the nature and extent of poverty and its impact on the family and society; the nature and extent of juvenile crime, and programmes for prevention and rehabilitation; situational analysis of children in difficult circumstances; domestic violence; substance abuse and the drug trade; effectiveness of the education system; and homelessness and displaced families.

In relation to children: (i) a National Plan of Action was formulated for implementing and observing the World Declaration on the Survival and Protection of the Rights of Children; (ii) a review has been made of policies regarding children's homes; (iii) all children's homes are being monitored; (iv) the report of the Caribbean Regional Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, hosted in 1989, has been published and disseminated; (v) a curriculum has been prepared for training staff of children's homes; (vi) plans are made to establish a Foster Care System; (vii) seminars will be held on the Introduction to Family Life and on Situation Analysis of Children in especially Difficult Circumstances; (ix) family counselling programmes will be introduced; (x) increasing awareness of the role of the counsellor in preventing and treating child abuse; and (xi) inter-agency collaboration in developing protocols for dealing with children who are victims of abuse, neglect and domestic violence. Regarding family related legal reforms and with the assistance of UNICEF, a review of Child and Family Law has been completed in relation to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Regional and international co-operation has increased in the past five years thanks to United Nations organizations in the area and focused programmes relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and national plans of action for the implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. Based on this example, the International Year of the Family 1994 is regarded as a new opportunity for further collaboration between Trinidad and Tobago and the international community.

Special events for the IYF include:

1) An IYF Media Launch on 1 October 1993 to sensitize the media, introduce the theme song and solicit support for dissemination of information;

2) A four part IYF television series aired from 4 to 7 January 1994, using the National Film Board of Canada film "Feeling YES: Feeling NO", to teach

children about prevention of sexual abuse and a studio recorded panel discussion on the film;

3) A Gala Launch of the IYF, in January 1994, involving various ceremonies; an inter-faith prayer service; parade of children; military and civilian personnel through Port of Spain; and a showcase of popular theatre on themes relevant to the IYF attended by the President, Ministers, members of the diplomatic corps, United Nations representatives and other dignitaries. The IYF was officially launched by Her Excellency the First Lady of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Patron of the IYF.

TUNISIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Ms. Neziha Mazhoud
Minister of Women and
Family Affairs
Office of the Prime Minister
National Commission for the
International Year of the Family
Tunis

FOCAL POINT

Dr. Mohamed Boukhris
President-Director-General
National Office for the Family
and the Population
Ministry of Public Health
42 Avenue de Madrid
Tunis

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In 1993, the Government created a Ministry in charge of Women and Family Affairs directly related to the Office of the Prime Minister. It has also created a National Commission, which has the task of elaborating a strategy for the family in connection with the International Year of the Family and stimulating action in existing sectors.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The Tunisian Government has established family policy geared toward two basic goals: (1) To work toward a balanced and thriving family, able to adapt to new lifestyles created by society's economic and cultural evolution. To achieve this goal, incentives are provided to assist families be self-sufficient, strengthen caring in the family and encourage openness to constructive change. (2) To enable families to offer their children the kind of socialization needed to prepare them as conscientious and responsible members of a civil society based on human rights and dignity for all.

State strategy regarding family issues has consisted of a three pronged approach made up of institutional, social, and information/education components.

The principal instrument of institutional support for families is the Personal Status Code, which governs relations between family members and contains provisions regulating marriage, abolishing polygamy, ensuring gender equality in family matters, divorce, and responsibilities concerning child custody. Recent amendments include specific measures to improve the situation of women in families, including, in August 1992, (a) granting women older than 17 years, the rights to have control over their private life and affairs from the time of marriage; and (b) mandatory consent of the mother for the marriage of a minor daughter, as a means of ensuring the total assent of the daughter, as well as to preserve matrimonial ties in case of the mother's opposition later.

The Government of Tunisia has taken a series of measures and decisions favouring Tunisian women, among which the following should be noted: (1) creation of a Fund guaranteeing pensions and food aid, where needed, to divorced women and their children. Furthermore, children shall continue to receive food assistance until they come of age or until the completion of their schooling. (2) introduction into the Labour Code of provisions outlawing sexual discrimination; (3) ratification of the Additional Protocol of the International Labour Convention, No. 89, allowing women more opportunities to work while offering them specific guarantees; (4) re-establishment of a nursing period for women employed in the public civil service who are otherwise not eligible for maternity leave; (5) the removal of all obstacles which might prevent women from gaining equal opportunity to specialize in different trades and professions; (6) giving the mother a say in the marriage of an underage daughter in line with the premise that life as a couple rests on mutual aid and agreement between spouses; (7) regarding child care: the mother should have the right to take charge of her children if her separated spouse abuses his rights as guardian; and (8) revision of the Nationality Code so that any child born of a Tunisian woman married to a non-Tunisian shall have Tunisian citizenship whether or not born in Tunisia, provided the father gives his consent.

Educational reforms have been undertaken to ensure preparation of children for productive lives as individuals and members of families and the community. Training schemes for employment skills is another support for families that has received priority attention. Sharp reductions in mortality have been achieved through intensive campaigns on health, particularly for women and children. Additional measures for children have been taken in respect to pre-school education; labour laws; victims of negligence, violence or sexual abuse; and through the Penal Code. Family allowances for those with children, and other allowance systems, are designed to assist families, particularly those who are underprivileged.

An important element of family policy in Tunisia is the national family planning programme, including key initiatives in information, counselling and other services. Such actions are founded on the 1988 Programme of Family Health in Rural Settings and the 1992 Population and Family Health Project.

In 1991, the President of the Republic proclaimed 11 December as the National Family Day. One National and three Regional Awards are given to individuals, institutions or organizations having contributed to the promotion of the family in Tunisia.

The Government of Tunisia has also actively promoted and supported the International Year of the Family at the international level. This has included hosting the United Nations Africa and Western Asia Preparatory Meeting for the International Year of the Family.

TURKEY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
T.R. State Ministry Responsible for: General Directorate on the Family and Social Research General Directorate on the Status and Problems of Women and Social Services Bakanliklar-Kizilay Ankara	Prof. Dr. Türkan Akyol State Minister responsible for Women's Affairs, Family and Social Services Bakanliklar-Kizilay Ankara

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

Families in Turkey display a rich variety of differences according to their cultural heritage and economic prospects. Most families are nuclear, especially in urban areas, while the remaining minority belong to the extended family. As a result of a rapid population growth, many people are migrating into big cities where they find shelter in what are called "gecekondu", or shabby suburbs, among their relatives who moved to cities earlier. Thus, a new form of extended family is forming in the larger towns.

The importance of marriage and family formation on childbearing and childrearing are well established in demographic literature. The family is taken as the "institution", responsible not only for bearing children but also for bringing them up. Thus, it is the basic unit by which the population ensures its survival.

Probably the best indicator of Turkey's family policy is expressed in its constitution. Turkey is one of the countries which tackle family issues at the constitutional level. Article 41 of the constitution states that "The family is the foundation of Turkish society". Thus, the Turkish State is responsible for developing and implementing policies relating to the family. These policies can be summarized under three headings: (a) Institution-building; (b) Judicial rearrangements; and (c) Development plan priorities.

Among various institutions developed recently in Turkey, several require special attention:

(1) General Directorate of Status and Problems of Women, established in 1990. The concept and status of women in modern Turkey has gained so much attention that the Ministry to be formed was named after this General Directorate, the activities of which are expected to be crucial in transforming the functions of family members, especially of female members, to cope with the requirements of modern life.

(2) The Family Research Institution was established primarily to carry out research, to develop and implement projects and to help formulate national policies related to the family. This institution, since its establishment in 1990, is steadily growing in terms of personnel and financial capabilities.

(3) The Ministry of Health now has a directorate responsible for promoting contraception but also for concentrating on the question of health and welfare of families.

Judicial changes are under way that are important for the status of Turkish families. For example, among these are revisions in family ownership of property. A bill of law, prescribing "shared ownership for the property acquired during marriage", has already been prepared.

Five-year development plans are another means through which policies related to families have surfaced for implementation. Currently, the Sixth Five Year Development Plan indicates priorities in welfare policies basically related to housing, counselling and other social service areas.

UGANDA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM *FOCAL POINT*

National Committee for the International
Year of the Family
Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs
Kampala

NATIONAL ACTION

At the 1990 United Nations World Summit for Children, Uganda was one of the countries to pledge themselves to developing a National Programme of Action for Children to form appropriate social services in their countries. In developing this programme the Ugandan Government inevitably gave great attention to the family.

The Programme covers both short- and long-term strategies to improve the provision of social services for children and mothers, and consequently the family. The Programme of Action aims at establishing survival, protection and development goals related to children, women and the family. These goals rest on existing Government policies and will serve to establish priorities, to co-ordinate activities, and to assess national, district and local community activities in social services; communities are being empowered to participate in planning, providing social services, and decision-making, which will give local families a say in matters affecting them.

The strategy of the National Plan of Action is mainly to provide basic social services to as many Ugandans as possible in such areas as primary health care, clean water and basic sanitation, primary education and adult literacy, and in community care of children in need of help, including those who are disabled.

Uganda already has policies to implement the National Programme to improve the situation for the family in general. These include:

(a) Strengthening the role of women in society;

(b) Government commitment to improve basic social services;

(c) Decentralization of administration services;

(d) Caring for persons with disabilities;

(e) Providing primary health care services;

(f) Improving agricultural output within the communities;

(g) Providing primary education for all children; and

(h) Providing education and information services of family planning.

To implement and monitor the Programme effectively, a National Council for Children is to be established. The Council will be semi-autonomous and it will represent the many parties which support the family, such as experts in community development; education for women, youth and culture; education; health and nutrition; child care and protection; economic development; and labour and human welfare.

In the meantime, a National Committee for the International Year of the Family has been formed, chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The Committee, which will draw up plans and co-ordinate activities to be carried out in preparation for the IYF, is also broad-based so as to cover all aspects that relate to the family.

Law reforms will include: (a) Child Law (protection and rights); and (b) Employment Bill Reviews (equality in employment between men and women).

Some of the priority issues identified by the Government in the context of the Year include:

(1) Lack of resources at the household level, which limits economic access to social services, such as health care, clean water and education;

(2) Inadequate availability of basic social services in many areas of the country that makes access to services difficult or impossible;

(3) Lack of effective demand for services due to lack of knowledge, attitude and practises that discourage households from seeking services that might improve the quality of their lives;

(4) Problems of urban families, including: rental costs far in excess of income; poor sanitation; slums; nutrition;

(5) Problems of rural families, including: acute poverty, access to clean water; lack of communication or transportation systems; high rates of illiteracy (58%); vulnerability;

(6) Issues concerning women in the Ugandan family: heavy burden of labour (12-18 hours/day); marriage conventions; access to education; land ownership;

(7) The situation of children, including: education; street children; high infant and child mortality (50% of all annual deaths among children less than five years of age, 14% among those one year of age); disability and child protection.

The government has indicated that measures are being taken to ensure that local communities have meaningful input into the district planning of social service policies. The local government system is intended to empower communities and families through local institutions of self-governance and resource mobilization, guided by a priority on sustainable self-sufficiency for families.

UKRAINE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
IYF National Organizing Committee
Kiev

FOCAL POINT

Hon. Mr. Peter Talanchuk
Minister
Ministry of Education of Ukraine
Kiev

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Ukraine has indicated its intention to participate, at the international level, in activities connected with the preparation for and observance of the International Year of the Family. At the national level, plans for observance of the Year include:

A. Contributing to a more informed and aware public opinion through: detailed coverage in the mass media of the IYF preparations to obtain extensive publicity on its objectives and tasks; publication of information dealing with the International Year of the Family; full and comprehensive coverage in the mass media (press, radio, television) of family problems, and of the principal government measures aimed at alleviating them.

B. Strengthening the potential of national institutions in policy formulation and implementation, including: statistical data and reports; legislative review and reform; measures to support vulnerable families.

C. Intensifying efforts to solve basic problems, including such themes as: the family as an agent in preserving human values, cultural identity and continuity; family law; family budget: obligations and interrelationships of family members; protecting the health of mothers and children; fertility and birth control within the family; drug addiction and alcoholism: prevention and countermeasures; and basic principles of family social welfare policy.

A National Organizing Committee has been formed to supervise the preparations for the IYF throughout the Ukraine, and regional committees have been set up for local IYF preparations. A national congress was held, bringing together parents and teachers of orphaned children at family-type children's homes. Also, a national congress was convened on the scientific aspects of the observance of the IYF. A third conference dealt with the family as a unifying factor in society.

In 1994, there will be nation-wide television broadcasting of a programme entitled "International Family Year Diary". There will be widespread involvement of executive organs and public institutions throughout the Ukraine in work to develop international contacts and co-operation on questions of family issues.

The principal activities conducted in the Ukraine for the International Year of the Family are also being undertaken in association with the framework of preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women and in fulfillment of the plan of action on the implementation of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children.

Programmes and Events for the IYF

Major activities for the Year include:

1) An international academic and practical conference on "Women in the State Structure".
2) International courses on "Management of Small Businesses", for training women entrepreneurs in business principles.
3) Participating in an international seminar on "Women in the Development Process", conducted by State institutions and women's social organizations in the Republic of Belarus, in the context of preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women.
4) An international academic and practical conference on "The Young Family in a Crisis Milieu: Strategies for Decision".
5) An international Conference on "The Ukrainian Woman and Democracy".
6) Preparing and submitting to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, a draft Law on "Introduction of Amendments and Additions to the Ukrainian Law on State Assistance to Families with Children".
7) Establishing the Ukrainian National Centre for Family Planning with the support of the Scientific Research Institute for Obstetrics, Gynecology and Paediatrics.
8) Within the framework of the preparations for the national programme "Children of Ukraine", hold an academic and practical conference on "Children of Ukraine".
9) A joint meeting of the organizing committee, the chairmen and executive secretaries of the organizing committees constituted by the regional/town State administrations to deal with the IYF.
10) Preparing and submitting to the Supreme Court of the Ukraine a draft Law on "The Rights of the Child".

11) For the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, a statement and report on measures in the Ukraine for the purpose of implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
12) Draft and submit to the Government for approval, the national programme, "Children of Ukraine".
13) A round table on: "Scientific and Practical Problems of Development and Social Security for the Modern Family, Maternity and the Child"; within the framework of the All-Ukrainian academic and practical conference on "The Demographic Situation in the Ukraine".
14) An art exhibition "Young Talent".
15) Charitable actions and render humanitarian aid to children's homes of the "Family Type".
16) Establishing a voluntary legal advisory agency, "Rights of the Child".
17) A round table on "Do Good to Your Children".
18) A grand Christmas charitable concert with participation by masters of arts and child prizewinners at international competitions.
19) Draft and confirm lists of heavy work involving harmful and dangerous labour conditions, in which the employment of females or under-aged persons is prohibited, together with the maximum weights which women and under-aged persons may lift or move.
20) Present statistical data on the social status of children in the Ukraine.
21) Prepare a new draft Code on Marriage and the Family in the Ukraine.
22) A scientific data bank on problems of the family.
23) Submit proposals on establishing a Fund to assist poor families in both budgetary (financial) and social insurance terms.
24) With a view to increasing public awareness and drawing public attention to problems of the family and the status of women and children, prepare a series of interviews and discussions for media under the general title "The Ukrainian Family: Traditions, Problems, Development".
25) Prepare and submit to the Government for consideration a draft decree on the medical treatment and social security of children suffering from leukaemia and malignant neoplasmas.
26) A number of measures regarding social support for the most socially unprotected families with children.
27) Prepare and present data on the progress of implementation in towns of the Law on "State Assistance to Families with Children".
28) Proposals for the holding in Kiev of an All-Ukrainian festival on "Family traditions in the national creative process", with participation of folklore groups and artistic families.
29) Propose the establishment in the Ukraine of a Mothers' Day and a Family Day, with an associated programme.
30) Include, with the social service centres for youth, sections for work with young families and sub-sections for social and socio-psychological support for young family members.

31) Prepare, to mark "1994 - International Year of the Family", a review of Ukrainian legislation on "Legal measures to ensure guarantees for the family and children".

32) Issue promotional publications in connection with the IYF.

33) Against a background of heightened independence on the part of local organs of State authority, consider the question of establishing, within regional/town State administrations, sections for dealing with problems of the family, women and children.

34) An international conference on "The talented child: family, school and State".

35) A consolidated document on matters dealing with improving education and training together with urgent measures for the social security of orphaned children and children suffering from lack of parental care.

36) Submit proposals on a forum of women's voluntary organizations to be held in Kiev.

37) Prepare and submit for consideration by the Government a draft decree on children's homes of the "family type".

38) Prepare and submit, for consideration by the organizing committee, a proposed draft law on arrangements for children suffering from lack of parental care (associated with international adoption).

39) Progress report on the implementation of the long-term programme for improving the status of women and of the family, and protection of mothers and children.

40) Devise machinery for collaboration between ministries and departments, non-governmental organizations and interest groups.

41) An international competition for young persons, entitled "The Muses and Children", among pupils of boarding schools for child orphans, children suffering from lack of parental care and residents of "family" children's homes.

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Ms. Joanna Foster, Chair UK Association for IYF 94 Room 202 Cambridge House c/o Yalding House 152/6 Great Portland Street London W1N 6AJ	Mr. Chris Hayes Department of Social Security Room 9/23 The Adelphi 1-11 John Adam Street London WC2N 6HT

NATIONAL ACTION

The UK Association for IYF 1994 has been set up by several non-governmental organizations. The Association, which has received financial assistance from the Government, aims to promote, facilitate and co-ordinate activities in relation to the International Year of the Family across the country. It has chosen to concentrate on three major themes:

(i) Work and family: under various headings, such as local and national legislation, employers, employees, and unions;

(ii) Relationships: Education, social services, health, parents, child abuse, the elderly, ethnic questions, etc.; and

(iii) Celebration: under this heading would come events to celebrate the IYF, such as family-friendly events - sport, concerts, entertainment, and leisure activities.

The Association will hold conferences and other events throughout the Year based on the above themes, and hopes to highlight the important role played by carers. It also aims to use the Year as an opportunity for families and family members to have fun together. The Association has proposed an exchange scheme to enable families in Europe the opportunity to experience family life in other parts of Europe. During the IYF, Government action on domestic and international issues will be led and co-ordinated depending on the key Departmental interest. The Department of Social Security will act as liaison point for the coordination and exchange of information about the Year.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
National Steering Committee for the International Year of the Family Ministry of Community Development, Women's Affairs and Children P.O. Box 3448 Dar es Salaam	Ministry of Community Development, Women's Affairs and Children P.O. Box 3448 Dar es Salaam

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NATIONAL ACTION

Many priority issues and pressing problems at the societal level in Tanzania provide the focus for IYF concerns. The Government has indicated that per capita GNP stands at US$180. The vulnerability of Tanzania's economy has been exacerbated by drought, war, rising energy prices and other factors, which have lead to a number of serious consequences for families. This includes: falling real incomes (64% reduction for non-agricultural wage incomes) and high rates for inflation (30%). The Government has maintained its share of allocations for social services for families, but the real value of the Government budget fell, which has had a negative effect, especially on education and health services. Social changes have taken a number of forms, including the transformation of extended families into nuclear ones.

In Tanzania, the Government machinery was decentralized in 1972 to enable participation of the people and their Districts in development planning and local decision-making. The District is a key unit in terms of administration and implementation. Many services for the well-being of families, especially vulnerable members, such as women and children, are provided by the Government through such mechanisms.

Health: The Government reports that the family health situation in Tanzania is generally inadequate. Women's health is much worse because of overwork, frequent births, and malnourishment. Such poor health of the mother inevitably affects the health of other family members, particularly children. The most effective public health achievement in recent years is the Universal Immunization campaign through maternal and child health clinics. The most common illnesses (malaria, intestinal diseases and respiratory infections) are mainly due to poor hygiene and inadequate sanitation, especially impure water supplies. Health education for families has been launched to promote improved hygiene, sanitation and environmental protection.

Child care: The Government has a programme of child care centres and kindergartens, but so far only enough for a small percentage of all children. Some communities organize child care through groups of families and this is supported by the Government through the Department of Social Welfare and Community Development.

Preparations for the IYF in Tanzania began in July 1992, and have included the following:

(1) A meeting between the Ministry of Community Development, Women's Affairs and Children and the Parents' Association to discuss means of preparing for the IYF. The Ministry was given the co-ordinating role, and serves as focal point for the IYF, while the Parents' Association forms the Secretariat and plans day-to-day activities.

(2) A National Steering Committee was formed by members from various Ministries and some NGOs. This Committee discussed activities to take place for the IYF and decided upon four sub-committees, i.e. one each on (a) finance; (b) publicity; (c) information, education and communication; and (d) research and evaluation.

(3) Non-governmental organizations have been very involved in the national preparation for the IYF. Local NGOs have been encouraged to participate fully as most of these are very active with families at the grass-roots level.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Administration for Children and Families Department of Health and Human Services 370 l'Enfant Promenade, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20447	Mr. David H. Siegel, Acting Director Office of Public Affairs Administration for Children and Families Office of the Assistant Secretary Suite 600 370 l'Enfant Promenade S.W. Washington, D.C. 20447

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

In 1992, the Government of the Unites States of America designated the Administration for Children and Families in the US Department of Health and Human Services as the national co-ordinating body for the International Year of the Family and appointed a Director for the IYF in that Administration to serve as the national IYF focal point for the Year.

The United States Agency for International Development had earlier launched a Family and Development Program based on the premise that, in all societies, it is the family that determines the demand for health, education, infrastructure, housing, etc. Decisions about whether children go to school and whether they get vaccinated are also made by families. The main objectives of the Family and Development Program are to:

(i) Strengthen and increase family participation in the development process;

(ii) Identify ways to increase mobilization of family resources to stimulate economic growth and social development;

(iii) Build on successful programmes that have focused on the family as the key to achieving development objectives;

(iv) Expand the use of the family as a critical unit of analysis in understanding people's needs and aspirations; and to

(v) Use the family concept and analytical framework to improve and enrich the results of monitoring, research, and evaluation of development impacts.

The United States Government is committed to strengthening families in many ways relating to health care, housing, nutrition, employment, and education, among others. The Federal role for the IYF is primarily that of a catalyst. Members of a Federal advisory group will encourage privately organized activities, inform citizens about accomplishments on issues of family importance, and support public/private partnerships so that local, regional and international IYF efforts may flourish. In addition promotional material about the US-IYF will be circulated to a national IYF mailing list.

Sharing information internationally is also an important part of the US-IYF plan. Through appropriate forums, the exchange of methods and models, ideas and concepts will allow the United States to make a greater contribution to this international initiative.

The Administration for Children and Families was created in 1991, combining the Family Support Administration and the Office of Human Development Services. This consolidation was to bring together, in a single agency, many child and family programmes which had been set up over the years, in order to target and co-ordinate services more efficiently. Some of the important IYF-related family services include: (i) Head Start (comprehensive services for pre-school children aged from three to the age of compulsory school attendance and for their families); (ii) Child Welfare Research Demonstration and Training; (iii) Adoption opportunities; (iv) Child Abuse and Neglect; (v) Administration for Native Americans; (vi) Office of Community Services; (vii) Family Violence and Prevention and Services; etc.

Programmes and events for the IYF

On 6 December 1993, the President of the United States of America issued a proclamation calling on all Americans to observe the Year with appropriate programmes and activities and proclaiming 1994 as the International Year of the Family in the United States. The proclamation cites the importance of working toward the goal of preserving family ties as society's most valuable resource, and sustaining and supporting families so that they can continue to survive and prosper. The role of families in the preparation of future generations and in the process of sustainable development are also highlighted.

Federal and State departments of Government have undertaken specific measures to promote the IYF. The US Department of Agriculture (Extension Service) has set up a national IYF task force composed of professionals and representatives from the private sector to co-ordinate IYF activities at local, State and national levels.

URUGUAY

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
National Co-ordinating Unit for the International Year of the Family National Institute for the Family and Women Montevideo	Professor Celina Burmester de Maynard Director National Institute for the Family and Women Ministry of Education and Culture Montevideo

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The National Institute for the Family and Women, together with the Support Unit attached to the Office of the President, constitute the National Co-ordinating Unit for the International Year of the Family. The National Co-ordinating Unit has decision-making authority in programming, organizing and implementing activities relating to the IYF.

A Government Committee has also been created. It will provide a channel for dialogue and liaison between Government agencies at the provincial and national levels, university and teaching institutions and the National Co-ordinating Unit. In addition, the IYF National Preparatory Commission has been established. Its tasks are to co-ordinate and combine the preparatory activities for the IYF. Its members include representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with the family.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Wide-ranging activities will be undertaken in the following four areas: studies and research; promotion; public information; and special events. In addition, priority topics have been identified to promote the well-being of the family.

1. Studies and research considerations include:

   (i) Diagnostic survey and analysis of the Uruguayan family, its structures, composition, legal status, levels of income and education, etc;
   (ii) Nation-wide opinion poll to ascertain the Uruguayan people's views and ideas about the family;

(iii) Review of programmes and projects that include the family as a target population, in both the public and the private sectors;
(iv) Review of programmes and projects that are aimed at social groups but do not explicitly involve the family as such;
(v) Reporting on existing family law;
(vi) Studies on specific topics related to civil, criminal, labour and tax law, particularly in the areas of adoption, violence, birth control, family welfare, etc.;
(vii) Formulation of policies and programmes aimed at comprehensive family development, on the basis of the case studies carried out.

2. Promotional activities will include:

(i) Issuing of a special postage stamp on the theme of the family;
(ii) Family cinema week during which films dealing with various family concerns will be shown;
(iii) Various public competition campaigns will include: (a) the design of a poster commemorating the Year; (b) the production of television spots that promote the image of the family; and (c) a literary competition on topics connected with the family's future development, aimed at school children and university students;
(iv) An essay-writing competition on "The reality of family life", with a view to gathering data on the patterns, behaviour and habits of Uruguayan family life.

3. Public information campaigns will focus on:

(i) Dissemination of information about the IYF, its central themes, objectives and priorities;
(ii) Promotion of articles and stories in the mass media about the family, preferably with public participation;
(iii) Promoting values that emphasize inter-generational relationships, mutual support, loyalty, love, security, tolerance and acceptance.

4. Events for the International Year of the Family include:

(a) Regional events

- Regional seminar involving the countries comprising the common market of the southern cone (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay), to define general guidelines for coordinated action;
- Regional seminar on family-oriented social policies.

(b) National events

1. General

- Regional IYF workshops to be held in the interior of the country;
- National forum for suggestions concerning the IYF;
- Competitive games and sports contests between generations.

2. Specific programmes

- Workshop on the image of the family, attended by media executives, journalists, reporters, publicists, etc.;
- Seminar on human and family rights, with the participation of specialists in these fields;
- Workshops and talks at educational establishments, with the aim of heightening the awareness of, and promoting discussions and exchanges of ideas on, family issues;
- Inter-disciplinary round tables on the family, to encourage thought, discussion and development of ideas on family-related matters;
- Workshops involving organizations that work with couples with parents' groups and with families.

Priority topics identified for consideration during the Year include:

- Family resources and responsibilities in a changing world;
- Demographic, social and economic processes that affect families and their members;
- Rights and responsibilities of the family as a unit and of each of its members as such (children, young people, the elderly, women and disabled persons);
- Differing interpretations and assessments of the role of the family in relation to society and to the individual;
- Current legislation that has a direct or indirect effect - whether positive or negative - on the family as a unit and on each of its members as such;
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Declaration of the World Summit for Children endorsed in 1990;
- Rules and mechanisms for monitoring compliance with statutory provisions relating to the family;
- Uruguayan families' roles, values, behavioural patterns and attitudes;
- The family as moulder and transmitter of standards and values;
- The family in terms of its function as a necessary moral, emotional, financial and material support to its members' development;
- The family as an educator, motivator and supporter of its individual members;
- The family viewed as a system whose constituents interact and interrelate with one another and with the community;
- The family faced with its own changes: sharing of responsibilities, flexibility and redefining of roles, adaptation and reappraisal in the face of difficult situations: formation of partnerships, birth of children, separation from children, splitting-up of partners, ageing of family members, widowhood, single-parent families, adolescent pregnancies, sickness, drug addiction, alcoholism, sexually transmitted diseases, disability, unemployment, retirement, domestic violence, adoption;
- Obstacles to social recognition of the value and of the family as an institution.

UZBEKISTAN

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM *FOCAL POINT*

NATIONAL ACTION

The International Year of the Family will be observed in Uzbekistan against the backdrop of major societal transformations taking place in the country.

Efforts are being made in Uzbekistan to improve the social situation of families. However, the present high-level economic reforms are creating additional difficulties for many families. Therefore, the State is taking a number of measures for social protection of vulnerable groups. These include:

- Identification of the poverty level and the real minimum wage;
- Budgeting for the less socially protected groups;
- Maintaining subsidies for basic food products;
- Establishing centres for professional training, assistance in employment;
- Development of a pharmaceutical industry and the means to produce medical equipment.

The Government has also instituted, over the past several years, a number of resolutions and Presidential Decrees concerned with family protection. These include provisions for parental leave; free nourishment and medical supports for pregnant women in poor families; and a lunch programme for primary class pupils in all secondary schools. Maternal and child health has been given a high priority and the principal elements of a national programme are being worked out with the participation of State and public structures. An initiative has also been launched on the theme of "For Healthy Generations".

UZBEKISTAN - 2

The Republic of Uzbekistan has identified problems in different areas where international assistance is required, e.g., in skills training for the market economy; development of the private sector; introduction of insurance and family planning; solving ecological problems, especially in the Aral Sea region; in analyzing the ecology situation that affects the health of all people in Central Asia; and in solving problems of water supplies, medical supplies, child nutrition, and of infant mortality.

Particular problems identified in the context of the Year include low life expectancies, high rates of disease and high infant mortality.

VANUATU

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM ***FOCAL POINT***

NATIONAL ACTION

The International Year of the Family will be observed in Vanuatu in the context of existing initiatives and priority concerns affecting the situation of families in the country. Principal among current concerns is the economic situation which threatens the livelihood of Vanuatu families and support systems.

Since the 1980s, the national economy of Vanuatu has been under great strain because much of its population depends upon copra for income, and copra prices have dropped considerably. The Government has been forced to cut services, which has had a major effect upon families, since these cuts particularly affected health, education and community development. Reduced incomes from copra sales have had a direct effect on the cash earnings of rural families and had negative consequences on living standards in those areas.

In addition, a high population growth conceals considerable rural/urban growth differences. The number of people living in urban areas has increased three times faster than the rural population and urban areas have doubled in population over ten years. These developments have brought a number of problems affecting the socio-economic well-being of low-income families.

In recent years, the situation of children in Vanuatu has improved and the infant mortality rate has dropped, however, prevailing conditions have compromised the strengths of families, posing various threats to the welfare of children.

Health and nutrition: Vanuatu's children face a high risk of serious disease in the first year of their lives, much of which is caused by only a few types of infectious disease. Environmental factors, such as water supplies, sanitation, housing and climate play a major role, as do social factors like education and the economic situation of families.

Education: While over 80% of children receive some formal education, most children do not progress beyond the primary level, and only very few complete secondary schooling.

Children in difficult situations: Three groups of children are particularly disadvantaged: first, those in remote areas have little or no access to Government services and suffer far higher levels of illness and child mortality than in other areas; second, more children are now living in poor conditions because their families are suffering from the economic recession; and third, disabled children have little assistance, and what does exist is largely to be found in urban areas.

Situation of women: Support networks for women are inadequate, due to lack of financial resources, despite support from groups such as the National Council of Women (NCW) and the Pre-School Association.

National policies and programmes benefitting families: In several key areas, broad policy guidelines or legislation already exist. There are national policies on Primary Health Care and Food and Nutrition. The Government is committed to the ideal of Universal Child Education and existing legislation protects the rights of women, etc. There is, however, a gap between policy and legislation, on the one hand, and what is actually carried out, on the other. Policies and plans directed at specific issues rather than sector-oriented policies are needed to achieve an integrated approach to the problems affecting families.

In 1990, Vanuatu celebrated the first National Children's Day, and became a signatory to the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children. In recent years, Vanuatu has also celebrated National Women's Day.

Programmes and events for the IYF

Essential to the task of improving the lot of the families of Vanuatu is a high level of co-operation between individual Government agencies, as well as between the Government and community organizations and NGOs, so as to approach problems effectively and to make the best use of available resources. The Government of Vanuatu will soon produce the Third National Development Plan. It is hoped that, in that context, planners and officials throughout all Government departments will examine all issues of importance to all families. This will include the acute health and educational needs of children and mothers, and the overall economic and social welfare of families.

The Government has indicated that activities and programmed projects to mark the IYF will require the joint involvement of several Government Ministries and Departments, including Women's Affairs, Health, Education, Home Affairs and Agriculture, as well as all the concerned NGOs, to carry out the national programme.

Initiatives required and on which some measures are being taken include:

1) A health plan directed at control of major health problems, communicable disease, malnutrition and access to services;

2) Early childhood education, including teacher training and curriculum development;

3) Social welfare support networks for women and to meet the urgent needs of urban low income families;

4) A more balanced agricultural practice between food and cash crops to improve national food security and reduce burdens on rural women;

5) Regional disparities in standards of service within the country.

VENEZUELA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Comité de Coordinación
Nacional de Venezuela
para Año Internacional de la Familia
Direccion General Sectorial de Familia
Parque Central, Torre Oeste, Piso 41
del Ministerio de la Familia
Caracas

FOCAL POINT

Presidente
Comité de Coordinación
Nacional de Venezuela
para Año Internacional de la Familia
Ministerio de la Familia
Parque Central, Torre Oeste, Piso 41
Caracas

NATIONAL ACTION

The Government established a National Commission for the International Year of the Family, under the Ministry of Family, with the responsibility to elaborate and coordinate the execution of a National Plan of Action for the Year. The Ministry has indicated that three basic issues are being given priority attention by the Government as IYF objectives to improve the situation of families. Those are:

(i) Nutrition: The following aid is being given: a milk voucher (for powdered milk), food vouchers, a glass of milk, all of which are distributed through the educational system in critical poverty areas.

(ii) Education aid, which operates on three levels: provision of school uniforms and equipment, pre-school expansion, and socio-cultural participation. These are also organized through the educational system.

(iii) Health: The programme ensures provision of medical and nutritional aid for pregnant women and children under six years of age, through a network of clinics.

The Government has announced that Venezuela will host the VIII World Congress on the Rights of Family from 30 October to 6 November 1994, in Caracas, under the patronage of the Central University of Venezuela, the Supreme Court of Justice and the Ministry of the Family.

The objective of this initiative, in observance of the IYF, is to realize an international comparative study on "Family Rights" at the highest level through the theoretical analysis of norms currently in force and the experiences in the application and functioning of those norms. The target is to establish conclusions and formulate recommendations that can serve as a basis of action for political, legislative and administrative bodies of the participant countries.

This is to be accomplished by:

a) Adjustments of legal instruments to reflect current realities; and
b) Formulation of bilateral or multilateral agreements among countries which have similar social problems or among countries that can achieve a collaboration level according to their resources and needs.

ZAIRE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Comité National de Coordination de l'Année Internationale de la Famille/Zaire Ministère de la Santé Publique, Affaires Sociales et Famille B.P. 2099, Kinshasa	S.E. Madame Mitheo Lola Mara Tumba Ministre de la Condition Féminine et de la Famille Kinshasa

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NATIONAL ACTION

The family is recognized as the basic unit of Zaire's society and the Government makes every effort to ensure harmonious development of its members. The Family Code, in force since August 1988, combines the statutory law from the colonial period with local customs. Two concepts of the family are recognized in Zaire, the extended family and the nuclear one.

The machinery for promoting and protecting family stability is the General Secretariat for Family Affairs, which operates under the Ministry of Public Health, Social Affairs and Family, whose Minister is the chairperson of the National Co-ordinating Committee, created by Ministerial Decree for the International Year of the Family. This Committee comprises representatives from public and private sectors, and from non-governmental organizations and religious bodies.

The General Secretariat for Family Affairs supervises several family services, including a family research and planning department; a national family information centre; the Ngaba mother and child centre; and a project, "Women and Development", to promote women and the family in both rural and urban areas.

Regarding socio-economic questions, the Government has stressed that wars and civil conflicts have deepened the misery of families already impoverished by external debt and inflation, contributed to the breaking up and emigration of families, and destroyed what little infrastructure there was.

Other priority issues associated with the consequences of armed conflict and identified by Zaire for consideration in the context of the Year are:

a) Disruption of the education of children;
b) Increased numbers of street children;

c) Serious health issues arising as health care becomes increasingly inaccessible.

Priority will also be given to high levels of illiteracy among women and attitudes which militate against their development.

Efforts are being made to address these and other issues through initiatives such as:

- Health for All by the Year 2000;
- an expanded immunization programme;
- programmes attempting to control the spread of AIDS; and
- housing programmes.

Zaire has ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, both of which are considered in the frame of legal issues positively affecting the situation of families in Zaire.

ZAMBIA

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	*FOCAL POINT*
Mr. G.W. Mwananguku Director of Social Welfare Chairperson of the National Committee for the International Year of the Family Ministry of Community Development and Social Services P.O. Box 31958 Lusaka	Mr. G.W. Mwananguku Director of Social Welfare Ministry of Community Development and Social Services P.O. Box 31958 Lusaka

NATIONAL ACTION

The National Committee for the International Year of the Family in Zambia is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring a national programme of activities for the observance of the Year. Among other matters, it is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of its constituent organizations at the national and provincial levels. It is also charged with the task of publicizing the activities of the Year and collecting information and data relating to the family.

The programme for the Year is being finalized. It will draw, inter alia, on the existing National Plan of Action For the Survival, Protection and Development of Children: The Role of the Family Unit.

HOLY SEE

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM

Pontifical Council for the Family
00120 Vatican City

FOCAL POINT

H.E. Alfonzo Cardinal Lopez Trujillo
President
Pontifical Council for the Family
00120 Vatican City

NATIONAL ACTION

Preparatory Measures

The Holy See welcomed the United Nations International Year of the Family and has continued its efforts to promote awareness of the IYF, particularly among Bishops and Episcopal Conferences, and the Movements and Catholic Organizations, many of which are recognized as non-governmental organizations, working for the family throughout the world. National Episcopal Conferences have been invited, in connection with the Year, to promote initiatives on behalf of families in their respective countries. Also, delegations have been sent to IYF preparatory meetings held in various regions of the world. The Church has always attached considerable importance to the family, which was one of the fundamental issues chosen for discussion by the Second Vatican Council.

Noteworthy among the various activities undertaken is the World Synod of Bishops that was convened by John Paul II in 1980 to discuss the responsibilities of the family in the contemporary world, the outcome of which was the apostolic exhortation Familiaris consortio, which set out the social duties of the family.

On the occasion of the IYF, the Catholic Church wishes to make its own contribution, as many Member States of the United Nations will also be doing, towards building the smallest democracy at the heart of society.

Programmes and events for the IYF

The International Year of the Family is an excellent opportunity to give thought to the social subject that is the family. Social policies have frequently taken into consideration some of the family members - children, the elderly, young people - in the furtherance of what is known as family rights. It is felt that a genuine family policy based on the rights of the family as a whole is still lacking where each of its members is not treated separately but as an integrated component of this social unit.

The Pontifical Council for the Family, as the IYF focal point for the Holy See, is preparing an extensive programme of activities. In 1993, preparatory meetings have been held with NGOs and Catholic organizations, and a meeting on the Family Rights Charter took place with European politicians concerned with family issues.

Much importance has been attached to implementing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. In 1992, two meetings were held - one, to study, discuss and promote the Convention of the Rights of the Child, and the other, which dealt with the exploitation of children through prostitution and pornography, in Bangkok.

Illustrative of the presence of Catholic movements, associations and groups in preparing for the IYF was the Family-fest '93, held on 5-6 June 1993 at the EUR sports stadium in Rome and organized by the Focolare Movement. It was televised live from nine major cities across the five continents and re-transmitted via 13 satellites to 150 countries.

In November 1991 and February 1992, the Holy See organized study meetings on topics related to the Year. The meetings were attended by representatives from the International Catholic Organizations already involved in these areas through the NGO Committees for the Family in Vienna, Paris (UNESCO) and Geneva.

One particularly important initiative was the drawing up of a document addressed to Episcopal Conferences by the Pontifical Council for the Family. The document, which was sent out in July 1992, was the outcome of a series of consultations with international experts and organizations. Although entitled "Criteria and Orientations for the International Year of the Family", it also contains long-term suggestions concerning the family.

Finally, a number of world-level meetings and conventions involving the entire Church are planned to be held in Rome.

SWITZERLAND

NATIONAL CO-ORDINATING MECHANISM	***FOCAL POINT***
Centrale pour les questions familiales Office fédéral des assurances sociales Effingerstrasse 33 3003 Berne & Commission nationale de coordination pour l'A.I.F. Pro Familia Suisse Laupenstrasse 45 Case Postale 7572 3001 Berne	M. Jost Herzog Chef de la Centrale pour les questions familiales Office fédéral des assurances sociales Effingerstrasse 33 3003 Berne

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NATIONAL ACTION

The Federal Council has asked Pro Familia Suisse to set up a National Co-ordinating Committee to prepare for the International Year of the Family. This Committee consists of several working groups focusing on different areas of concern. In the context of the IYF, numerous research and studies are being carried out, and diverse activities and events are being planned.

The following official programme for the IYF has been presented to the National Committee:

1. The official launching of the IYF at a press conference on 9 December 1993 in Berne, with the President of the National Committee, the Presidents of the Working Groups and Madame Secretary General of the Pro Familia Suisse:

(i) To present the press with the objectives of the National Committee, taking into account the preparatory work done by several Working Groups, i.e. the 1993 activities;
(ii) To present the 1994 calendar of major events that will be organized by the National Committee and by other national organizations;
(iii) To discuss the final resolutions adopted by the World NGO Forum, held in Malta.

2. Launching the 'solidarity' campaign. In 1994, newspapers, weekly magazines and specialized journals will regularly publish features concerning solidarity within the family, between families and with families, which will be provided by the National Committee. Competitions for illustrators and editors

are also planned for slogans on the theme of family solidarity. Campaign slogans approved by the 'Solidarity' Working Group will be submitted to the Co-ordination Committee before publication and broadcast through various media.

3. Family allowances: The results of an extensive research programme (PRN29), will be published on this subject. A team of researchers has analyzed every area of the National Health Service except those dealing with housing and scholarships. The details of this research are reported in 25 publications of 100 to 150 pages each. The "allowances" working group of the National IYF Committee has chosen "family allowances" as the focus of its work. The results and policy implications of this research will be publicly announced and discussed.

4. A national event for families, to which Federal representatives, members of the National Committee, as well as several journalists and personalities concerned with family issues will be invited, will take place in June 1994. The National Committee will present an interim report on IYF activities. A Forum, in which Federal representatives, journalists and specialists on family policies participate, should be especially significant. In this context, it is hoped to organize a meeting with families from a broad cross-section of Swiss society.

5. Publication on family life and professional life: The Working Group, "World of Work", appropriately highlights the fact that the world of work does not sufficiently take into account the existence of diverse structures of family life. The Group intends to present an inventory of the main problems faced by families, and will publicize the identified policy implications of these problems. First of all, social partners, employers and workers' organizations will be addressed in regard to the issues identified.

6. Solidarity with foreign families: The Working Group will publish, during 1994, a work on family life in other cultures, aimed at pupils attending primary and secondary schools. It will be put before the teachers' body of the various cantons and will be prepared in three or four languages. The National Committee shall benefit from the support of several organizations, such as the UNICEF Committee for Switzerland and the Pestalozzi Foundation for children's villages.

7. Closing conference: The National Committee, with Pro Familia Suisse's participation, is preparing a conference for December 1994 to mark the end of the IYF and consider follow-up actions. During the closing conference, the Committee will be called upon to produce an Inventory of Policy Needs arising out of the conclusions of actions undertaken during the Year. At this time, the establishment of a Federal Committee for Family Affairs will be considered; as well as a call on authorities in the cantons to establish such committees at the local level. Such measures are tangible indication of the Government's view that the Year is to be regarded as the beginning of a long-term process of support for families in Switzerland.